

SATURDAY

The fall of the house of Forte

Saturday Story, pages 14 & 15

Starting today

Win a Porsche Boxster

Starter token in Weekend, page 12

The skiing you've dreamed of

A guide to the heights of luxury In Weekend



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 2,894

27 JANUARY 1996 (1R 65p) 50p

## Millions to benefit in home loans war

Rates drop to 6.25% in battle for customers

NIC CICUTTI

Millions of house buyers are set to benefit from the cheapest home-loan deals since the 1960s as the escalating price war between lenders led Bradford & Bingley yesterday to cut mortgage rates to a record low of 6.25 per cent.

Its move placed the two biggest lenders, Halifax and Abbey National, under intense pressure to reduce their mortgage rates even further.

Their resolve will be tested by other large and mid-ranking building societies in the next few weeks. Several confirmed yesterday they are preparing to give "loyalty" bonuses to members.

One building society chief, who refused to be named, said: "We will force them to the point where they have to say

lowest standard rate anywhere in the country."

The bonus packages on offer from societies, including reductions in loan costs and hikes in savings rates, are part of societies' defence against de-mutualisation or takeovers.

David Charlton, assistant general manager at Skipton Building Society, which led the market with a reduction for its 60,000 borrowers in December, said: "We are preparing a package of measures and it is almost certain that we will be cutting mortgages even further. We have said for some time that we believed there must be a narrowing of the margin between savings and mortgage rates."

Bradford & Bingley led the pack last week by cutting rates for its 600,000 branch network borrowers to 7.24 per cent. Yesterday's cut is an offer to borrowers who book a mortgage through the society's telephone service.

Nationwide, the second-largest society, said it too would be offering a bonus package to its 8 million members within weeks. Britannia, another top-10 society, will do so in the spring. A spokesman at Bristol & West said: "Until recently, we had considered that defending mutuality lay in providing competitive pricing both in savings and mortgages. We are now considering the issue of loyalty bonuses and will make an announcement as soon as appropriate."

Birmingham Midshires said it was also considering a similar package for its 750,000 investors and 160,000 borrowers although a spokesman was unable to say when a decision might be reached.

But Ken Culley, chief executive at Portman Building Society, argued: "Our defence of mutuality means we try to balance the interests of both savers and borrowers. It is a matter of concern to me that the effects of mortgage rate reductions are always felt by savers. We believe that borrowers have had a good deal and want to defend our savers, who are seven times as numerous."

The initiative by Direct Line and Bradford & Bingley adds a new dimension to the price war. Their undercutting of traditional lenders is the result of telephone-based operations doing away with costly overheads, including branch networks.

Although still relatively small, telephone lenders are grabbing an increasingly large slice of the market. Direct Line, which has been offering mortgages for less than a year, has already lent about £210m.



Geoffrey Lister: 'Lowest standard rate anywhere'

whose side they are on. Are they into making profits for their existing and future shareholders, or will they defend the interests of their members?"

Both lenders, with 3.2 million borrowers between them, said that after spearheading several price cuts in the past few months they had no intention of following suit this time.

A Halifax spokeswoman said: "We have no plans to cut our rates. Having said that, we would want to remain competitive with the market-place."

Bradford & Bingley's move yesterday followed an earlier rate cut to 6.49 per cent by Direct Line, the telephone-based financial services company.

The society's response lowers the cost of a typical £50,000 interest-only mortgage to £237 a month from March, when the reductions take effect. Direct Line's mortgage will cost £246 a month from mid-February.

Geoffrey Lister, the society's chief executive, said: "We believe the new rate for our 'phone-alone' mortgage is the

## Winds from Siberia put Britain into deep freeze



Extreme weather conditions caused one death and hundreds of accidents yesterday, as Siberian winds returned to Britain, plunging temperatures to nearly 20 degrees below zero, with worse to come. A

26-year-old woman was killed when a car skidded on ice at Pyecombe, near Haywards Heath in West Sussex. The worst affected areas were in south Wales, where temperatures dived to minus 17C with the wind-chill

factor. North-east England, Humberside, Merseyside and southern Scotland all had snow, which combined with freezing winds on Thursday night to cause electricity blackouts. Report and forecast, page 2

## Kevin Maxwell faces second fraud trial

JOHN WILLCOCK  
Financial Correspondent

Kevin Maxwell's legal battle to clear his name is set to drag on for another 18 months or longer after the Serious Fraud Office yesterday sensationally declared it was prosecuting him on further charges of fraud, despite his acquittal on similar charges a week ago.

Mr Maxwell accused the Government of interference in seeking another trial, which prompted a denial from the Attorney General, who has ultimate responsibility for the SFO.

His counsel said this would mean another trial starting in February 1997, and lasting even longer than the eight month trial which ended last week at a cost of £24m to the taxpayer.

Alun Jones QC bitterly attacked the decision as "nothing less than an outrage". It would mean Mr Maxwell had been under the strain of having to defend himself for five-and-a-half years.

The decision sparked disbelief from observers, who had assumed the SFO would abandon any further action at yesterday's hearing. The SFO was heavily criticised over its handling of the first trial in which Kevin and Ian Maxwell and former Maxwell aide Larry Trachtenberg were all acquitted of conspiracy to defraud Maxwell pension funds.



Kevin Maxwell: 'I am the victim of a political decision'

Following yesterday's decision, Kevin, Mr Trachtenberg and former treasurer Albert Fuller face charges of conspiracy to defraud. The charges relate to shares in Berlitz held by the Maxwell business empire, which it is alleged were pledged to a number of different banks as collateral for loans. As a result, the banks lost over £100m, it is alleged.

Former Mirror Group finance director Michael Stoney is also to face trial, on two charges of false accounting. All charges against Kevin's elder brother, Ian, were dropped.

The SFO claimed yesterday

in a heated hearing that a second trial could start this October and would be shorter than the first.

Kevin, visibly shaken by the SFO's unexpected decision, told reporters after the Old Bailey hearing of his "immense disappointment".

"I believe that I am the victim of a political decision taken by politicians in the run up to a general election. I don't believe the interests of justice will be served by a second trial. I take a lot of courage from the jury's verdict," he said.

"I came out of court protesting my innocence and will fight these new challenges with the same vigour, determination and absolute confidence that I will be proven innocent if these charges ever come to court."

The Attorney General then issued a statement: "The law officers completely refute the suggestion by Kevin Maxwell that the decision of the Serious Fraud Office to proceed with certain outstanding charges on the indictment was the result of political influence."

The decision was taken by the director of the SFO after taking advice from leading and junior counsel in the case.

"As the SFO made clear in its announcement this morning, the law officers were also consulted. This is normal in cases of great public importance in

view of their statutory responsibility for the work of the SFO. They supported the director's decision."

Kevin's defence counsel successfully applied for a further hearing to decide whether a second trial would be an "abuse of process" or should be allowed to go ahead.

Yesterday's controversial decision by the SFO was taken just half an hour before the hearing, according to the SFO's counsel Richard Lissack.

Mr Jones told the court that the continued prosecution was oppressive and the defence would be seeking to have it dropped on the grounds of abuse of process.

The SFO also decided not to go ahead against former Maxwell accountant Robert Bunn - who was dropped from the original trial after developing heart problems - because of his continuing ill health, Mr Lissack said.

The DTI inspectors' report on the flotation of the Mirror Group in April 1991 may also be delayed by another trial.

Lord Justice Phillips said he had written to the DTI, who replied that they were ready to start sending out parts of the Mirror Group report for comment to people named in it. This would have to wait until after the abuse hearing, he said.

Drama in court, page 4



Buy The Independent today and get the Independent on Sunday for only

50p

See coupon on page 6

MAGAZINE

What makes a Premier League footballer see red? And other tales of job rage

Fashion secrets of size 16-plus

The boy who got rich on public school lust

Questions of Sport

£40,000 to be won. New scratchcard inside today

Send an Independent valentine: see Weekend page 6

With your support Labour can begin the task of rebuilding Britain. Join us today.



YES, I want to give Britain new leadership by joining the Labour Party.

☐ £15 Standard rate **A29**  
☐ £5 Reduced rate: Student/unwaged/part-time/retired/ on a government training scheme (please indicate)  
☐ £3 Registered rate: I am a levy paying member of a trade union affiliated to the Labour Party

Full name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a Cheque/Postal Order, payable to 'The Labour Party' I accept the rules and constitution of The Labour Party

Please return the entire form to:  
The Labour Party, Room 215, FREEPOST,  
John Smith House, 150 Wakefield Road,  
London SE17 1BR. No stamp required.

**Labour**

### IN BRIEF

#### Cost-cutting quashed

The Government's attempt to redraw the boundaries of two estuaries and save £100m in sewage clean-up costs was quashed. **Page 6**

#### Adams accuses Major

The Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, has accused the Prime Minister of putting his hold on political power before peace. **Page 2**

#### 'Outcast' husband

A woman whose husband is the first man in Britain to be ostracised by the Jewish community, said she was helping other Jewish women. **Page 3**

## Prisoners are paid £5,000 for riot 'trauma'

JASON BENNETTO  
Crime Correspondent

Seven former inmates of Strangeways prison, in Manchester, have been paid about £5,000 each by the Home Office for the trauma they said they suffered during the riots in the jail in 1990.

The decision to compensate the offenders in out-of-court settlements drew an angry reaction from MPs who warned the move could open the flood gates to scores of similar claims. A victims' organisation said it was "justice back to front".

An eighth former Strangeways prisoner is having his claim considered, while a prison officer has been paid an undisclosed sum following the mass disturbances at the jail.

In what are believed to be the first cases of this kind, the inmates - all since released - said they underwent personality changes because of the riots.

The Home Office said settlements were made because of the huge cost to the taxpayers if the cases had come to trial.

A Prison Service spokesman said it was a decision of the Prison Board, but that Michael

Howard, the Home Secretary, would have been informed.

The former inmates said they suffered post-traumatic stress disorder from the violent scenes in the jail. Terence Jeggo, 27, of Manchester, who was given £4,500, said the Prison Service breached their duty of care.

Mr Jeggo was involved in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue two prisoners from a burning cell during the riot. He said he suffered post-traumatic stress disorder from a belief he had left them to die. Mr Jeggo, who served two years for wounding, said yesterday: "My personali-

ty changed totally. My mother said before I went into Strangeways I was a human being and when I came out I wasn't."

Dawn Bromley, of Justice For Victims, responded: "What about the stress and pain caused to the victims and families of victims by their actions? Justice has got everything back-to-front."

Richard Tilt, the Prison Service acting director-general, said: "In seven cases we have concluded that it would be reasonable to make *ex gratia* payment."

Sir Ivan Lawrence, chairman of the Commons Home

Affairs Select Committee, criticised the move as "absurd".

But Stephen Shaw, director of the Prison Reform Trust, said the prison authorities had a duty of care. "Where that is not forthcoming, inmates have the same right to seek redress or compensation as any other member of the public."

9 770951 946269

section ONE

BUSINESS 18-21 COMMENT 14,17 CROSSWORD 2,28 GAZETTE 13  
LEADING ARTICLE 16 LETTERS 16 NEWS 2-12 OBITUARIES 13  
SHARES 28 SPORT 22-28 UNIT TRUSTS 21 WEATHER 2

Independent WEEKEND

ARTS 7,8 BOOKS 9-11 BRIDGE 27 CHESS 27 LISTINGS 26  
MONEY 22-25 MOTORING 20 PROPERTY 21 REVIEWS 8  
SHOPPING 4-6 TELEVISION & RADIO 27,28 TRAVEL 14-19

## news

## INDEPENDENT special offer

ON SUNDAY

Buy it half-price tomorrow and read

SEX AND DRUGS AND ROCK'N'ROLL

Part 2: Drugs - who takes them?

Why? What are the risks?



## INDEPENDENT

ON SUNDAY

tomorrow for only 50p

Reader's name

Address

WHOLESALE NAME

RETAILER'S NAME

To the Reader: Hand this voucher to the newspaper with a copy of the newspaper on Sunday 28 January 1994 and pay only 50p (40p) to receive your copy of the newspaper. To claim your voucher, please provide your name and your copy of the newspaper to the newspaper on Sunday 28 January 1994. The voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. It is valid only on the Independent on Sunday only.

To the Wholesaler: Please send this voucher to the newspaper with a copy of the newspaper on Sunday 28 January 1994 and pay only 50p (40p) to receive your copy of the newspaper. To claim your voucher, please provide your name and your copy of the newspaper to the newspaper on Sunday 28 January 1994. The voucher is not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. It is valid only on the Independent on Sunday only.



## IN BRIEF

## Forte talks to City about buy-back

Advisers to Sir Rocco Forte, who spectacularly lost control of his family hotel and restaurant empire to Granada in a hostile £3.8bn takeover bid last week, were yesterday in further talks with City institutions in an effort to raise the finance for the buy-back of part of the group. Granada is seeking to sell some of the top hotels, including the Meridien and Exclusive chains, the Waldorf and Grosvenor House, and to dispose of Forte's 68 per cent shareholding in the Savoy Group. Three US companies, ITT Sheraton, Hilton Hotels and the Marriott Group, are said to be interested in the Savoy. An adviser to Sir Rocco said: "We've had an excellent response... Rocco Forte is a major force in the hotels business and his robust defence has won him new friends in the City."

## Newbury evictions

Campaigners fighting the A34 Newbury bypass in Berkshire face evictions from four sites blocking the route after a High Court judge granted possession orders against them. Department of Transport lawyers would not say when the evictions from sites near the River Kennet, Elmore Woods, Reddings Copse and the Chase would start.

## Widow seeks seat

The widow of Conservative MP Sir David Lightbown has put her name forward to fight his seat in the forthcoming by-election. Ann Lightbown, who worked as her husband's assistant in the Commons, said she wanted to carry on his work as MP for Staffordshire South East. Sir David, 63, died last month.

## Pub attack

A man who attacked a builder in a pub car-park row, causing massive injuries, was found guilty at Liverpool Crown Court of causing grievous bodily harm. Richard Mellor, 32, attacked Barry Hayes, 50, for telling off Mellor's seven-year-old son after his car was scratched in August 1994. The case was adjourned until 2 February.

## Cricket ousts 'Today'

Proposals to replace BBC Radio 4's 'Today' morning news programme with live cricket coverage on its Long Wave frequency have angered listeners. The BBC has revealed that on 14 and 22 February much of the two-and-a-half-hour magazine will be turned over to the World Cup matches in India and Pakistan.

## Football fan's trial

An attempt by the football fan attacked by Manchester United's Eric Cantona to block his own trial was thrown out by the High Court. Matthew Simmons, 21, charged with using threatening words and behaviour, claimed that press coverage after the incident at Selhurst Park, south London, last January meant he would not get a fair trial.

## Alan Clark

Alan Clark has asked us to point out that at no time has he received any legal assistance in relation to the Scott inquiry, either at taxpayers' expense, or on his own account.

## Ulster crisis deepens as Sinn Fein rejects poll

ALAN MURDOCH, PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES and DAVID McKITTRICK

The crisis over the Northern Ireland peace process deepened yesterday as Sinn Fein's president Gerry Adams delivered a point-blank rejection of an elected body and accused John Major of putting his hold on political power before peace.

The disagreement between London and Dublin meanwhile reached boiling point as the Taoiseach, John Bruton, insisted London could not evade its commitment to starting all-party talks on Northern Ireland by the end of next month.

Speaking after a pre-arranged meeting with Margot Mowlan, Labour's Northern Ireland spokeswoman, Mr Adams claimed Mr Major had "banned" the Mitchell report and that by opting for a Unionist agenda of elections he was replacing the pre-condition of decommissioning before all-party talks with yet another pre-condition.

"We are totally opposed to the notion of any election; that is our position," Mr Adams said. "Our opposition is implacable and absolute."

In what has become the most acrimonious rift between the two governments since he came to office at the end of 1994, Mr Bruton made clear Dublin was not prepared to accept any dilution by London of its undertakings given two months ago to operate the twin-track process to enable an early start to all-party dialogue.

Clearly angry and exasperated at what he considers a personal betrayal by Mr Major, Mr Bruton said: "The fact of the matter is we are committed to all-party talks by the end of February."

Mr Bruton also issued a new call to the Ulster Unionist Party to end the impasse by opening a face-to-face dialogue with Sinn Fein. He accepted some might want more elaboration from Sinn Fein in demonstrating their commitment to the six

principles outlined in the Mitchell report.

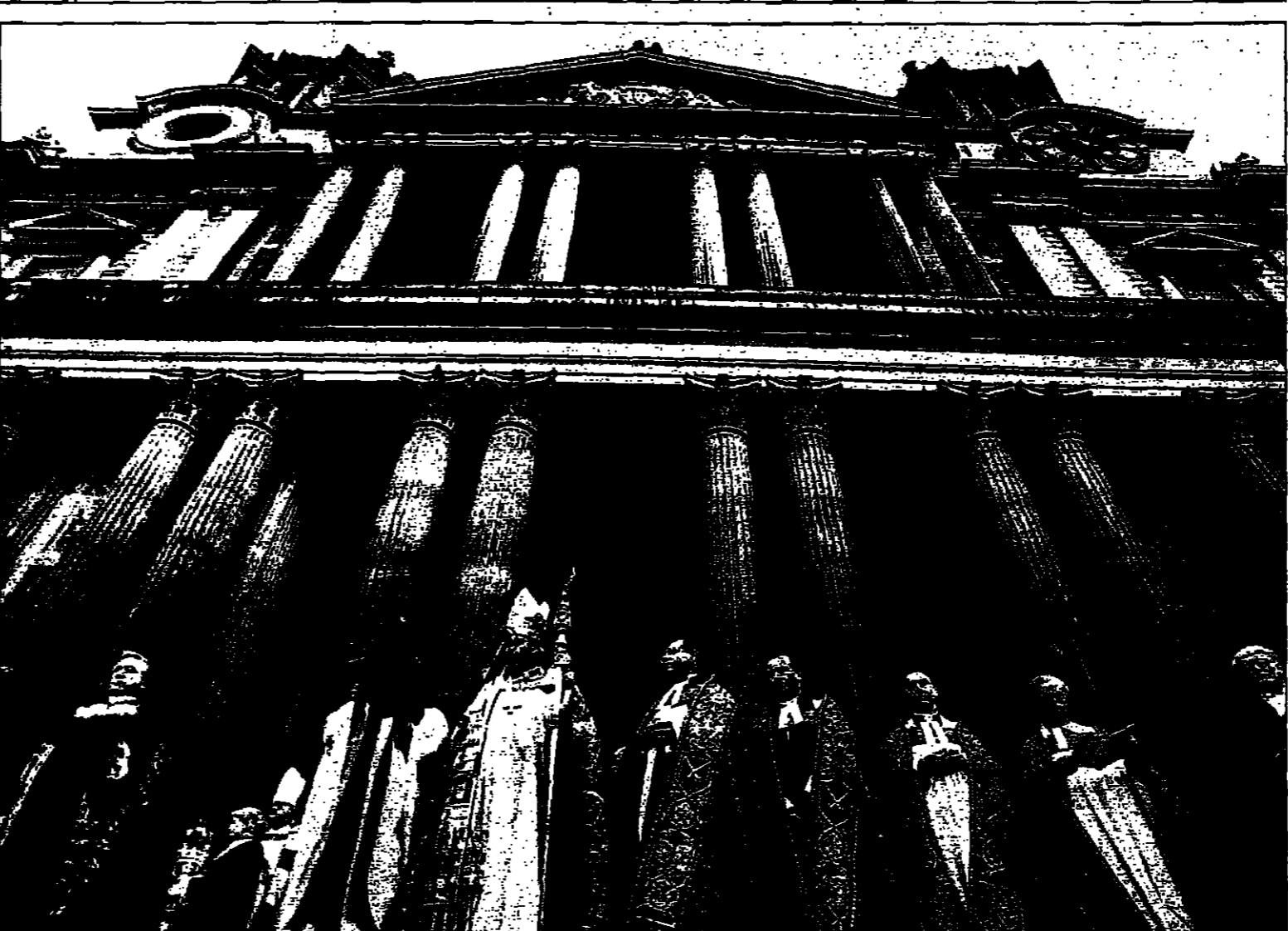
"What I would suggest is that if a party has doubts let them talk to them. I can see no reason what after 16 months of peace why Unionists cannot send a delegation to see to Sinn Fein and ask them to demonstrate, point by point, how they intend to show to Unionists that they accept each one of these six principles," he said.

The opposition to the election from Sinn Fein, the Irish government and John Hume's SDLP forms, in theory at least, a united nationalist front. But although the opposition to an election is strong across the spectrum of nationalism, no element has limited its options by committing itself to any action such as a boycott. Instead, a series of meetings is planned at which Mr Hume and Irish ministers will attempt to change the British government's mind.

One republican leader said yesterday that Sinn Fein had yet to decide its tactical approach. The party has however given strong indications that it would be prepared to subscribe to the six principles of non-violence set out in this week's report by the former US Senator George Mitchell.

These included an absolute commitment to peaceful means and a commitment to eventual verifiable total disarmament. Senator Mitchell had suggested that talks could start on the basis of these principles, but in the event his recommendation was quickly superseded by Mr Major's announcement of his election proposal.

Mr Adams said an election was a distraction and an unnecessary pre-condition for talks. He added: "Mr Major has taken the whole process off at a tangent. He has opted for a Unionist agenda and has really made it very difficult for all of those who are genuinely interested in peace to actually move forward. He is putting his hold on political power before peace in this country."



Bishop's move: The new Bishop of London, Dr Richard Chartres, at his enthronement at St Paul's Cathedral yesterday. Dr Chartres, a traditionalist, called for the millennium to usher in a greater spirituality and for the Church to emphasise its relationship to Christ's birth. Photograph: Dillon Bryden

## MPs keen to ban sale of knives to under-16s

PATRICIA WYNN DAVIES

Political Correspondent

The selling of knives to young people is set to be banned in the wake of last month's fatal stabbing of Philip Lawrence, the London headmaster.

Timothy Kirkhope, a Home Office minister, said outlawing sales to the under-16s was under "serious consideration". If a ban was found to be workable it could be included in the Offensive Weapons Bill during its committee stage.

The Bill, sponsored by Tory MP Lady Olga Maitland, has all-party support and was yesterday given an unopposed Second Reading.

Mr Kirkhope said a ban would be a major change that

would need careful consideration, but said: "Young children simply do not need razor sharp kitchen knives or commando style daggers and it is hard to justify why they should be able to buy them."

Although a private member's measure, the Bill's provisions are effectively the result of talks between ministers and police chiefs in the wake of the fatal stabbing of Mr Lawrence. It provides for a new maximum penalty of a two year jail sentence or an unlimited fine for carrying a knife without good reason, while the maximum sentence for carrying an offensive weapon such as a cosh or knuckleduster would go up from two to four years.

More than 37,000 knives

were surrendered this month in an amnesty. "Serious crimes deserve serious punishment and it is time we wiped the smirks off the faces of the hooligans who make other people's lives such misery," Lady Olga, MP for Sutton and Cheam, said. The suggested outright ban on the sale of knives to youngsters would send a "powerful message of disapproval", she said.

The MP said people with good reason to carry a knife, such as carpenters or Sikhs with ceremonial daggers, would be exempt.

Alun Michael, a Labour home affairs spokesman, called for controls on advertising weapons. He said names like Rambo Short Sword encouraged undesirable behaviour.

## Tories play down 'rift' with Clarke

DONALD MACINTYRE

Political Editor

Downing Street yesterday joined intensive Whitehall efforts to damp down a fresh spate of speculation that Kenneth Clarke was at odds with John Major and his colleagues over Europe, the economy and how to combat the electoral threat from Labour.

There were suggestions last night that the reports could be the result of "wishful thinking" among Euro-sceptics who had unsuccessfully been trying to persuade Mr Major to rule out Britain being among the first countries to join EMU. Mr Clarke has been forthright in suggesting 1998 is the time for Britain to decide.

While Mr Clarke's continued

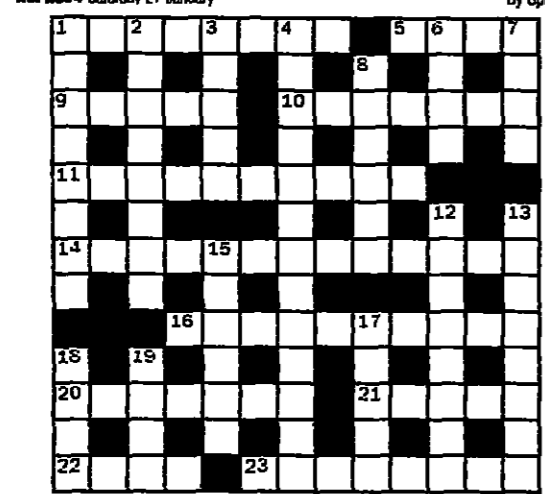
openness to the possibilities of monetary union differentiates him from many, if not most, of his colleagues, the Treasury and Downing Street united yesterday in adamant denial that there was any rift. It was also pointed out that Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, had also been strongly against ruling out EMU membership.

There were suggestions last night that the reports could be the result of "wishful thinking" among Euro-sceptics who had unsuccessfully been trying to persuade Mr Major to rule out Britain being among the first countries to join EMU. Mr Clarke has been forthright in suggesting 1998 is the time for Britain to decide.

## concise crossword

No. 2294 Saturday 27 January

By Surles



- ACROSS**
- Following the game? (8)
  - Exploit (4)
  - Approximately (5)
  - Fancy (7)
  - Insolvent (10)
  - Local authority (6,7)
  - Legitimate (5,5)
  - Weightlifting equipment (7)
  - Covering of billiard table (5)
  - Heroic tale (4)
  - Shirts, pillow-cases, etc (3,5)
- DOWN**
- School sports event (4,4)
  - Balloonist (8)
  - African village (5)
  - Extent to which a thing causes difficulties (8,5)
  - Arrange for publication (4)
  - Abound (4)
  - Rich cake (6)
  - Time (8)
  - Stout club (8)
  - Form of medication (6)
  - Confusion of tongues (5)
  - Bird sacred to Egyptians (4)
  - Smug, self-righteous person (4)

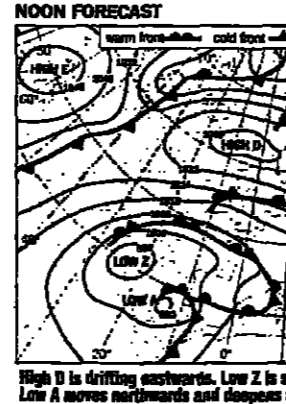
**Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:**

Across: 1 Ewe, 2 Funny (Euphony), 3 Glad, 9 Clarinetist, 10 Pledge, 12 Biliary, 14 Short-sighted, 18 Saga, 19 Chateau, 20 Dito, 21 Yet, Down: 1 Ethical, 2 Extra, 3 Forge, 4 Nightie, 5 Years, 6 Chance, 11 Dormant, 12 Beggar, 13 Radiant, 15 Hoard, 16 Secco, 17 Tacky.

## Notes

## Weather forecast

NOON FORECAST



High 11 is drifting westwards. Low 2 is slow moving, while Low 4 moves northwards and deepens a little.

**WORLD WEATHER** (continued from page 1)

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Precip
London	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0
Bristol	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0
Birmingham	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0
Manchester	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0
Newcastle	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0
Glasgow	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0
Edinburgh	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0
Cardiff	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0
Belfast	12-18	W 10-15	Partly	0

**Lighting-up times**

Area	Light	Dark
London	4.40 pm	7.46 am
Bristol	4.40 pm	7.46 am
Birmingham	4.40 pm	7.46 am
Manchester	4.40 pm	7.46 am
Newcastle	4.40 pm	7.46 am
Glasgow	4.40 pm	7.46 am
Edinburgh	4.40 pm	7.46 am
Cardiff	4.40 pm	7.46 am
Belfast	4.40 pm	7.46 am

**AIR QUALITY**

Area	Index	Category
London	1.0	Good
Bristol	1.0	Good
Birmingham	1.0	Good
Manchester	1.0	Good
Newcastle	1.0	Good
Glasgow	1.0	Good
Edinburgh	1.0	Good
Cardiff	1.0	Good
Belfast	1.0	Good

**Out and about with AA Roadwatch**

CP 6336 481777 for the latest local and national traffic news.

Source: The Automobile Association. Data changes at 300 per hour (except 400 per hour) for all other areas.

## Big chill plays havoc with sport and travel

Arctic conditions caused major problems for commuters yesterday, with the promise of worse weather to come and the weekend's sporting calendar ravaged, writes Peter Victor.

The trans-Pennine route between County Durham and Cumbria was closed and snow ploughs were out on many northern trunk roads, where up to three inches of snow were reported.

AA Roadwatch said that the worst-hit roads were in Lothian, around Edinburgh, and in the Borders. They include the A8 heading east to Edinburgh and the M73 in Strathclyde.

which was hit by a blizzard yesterday. Snow, ice and winds affecting power lines were blamed for InterCity delays between Edinburgh and Newcastle.

Weekend football, rugby and horse racing have been badly hit. Race meetings today at Ayr, Cheltenham and Doncaster have been called off, the only survivor being the all-weather meeting at Lingfield. Three FA Cup fourth round ties - at Coventry, Ipswich and Swindon - have also fallen victim.

A London Weather Centre spokesman said even worse conditions are in store towards the end of the weekend.

## THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	...Sch40	Norway	...175.00
Belgium	...BP80	Italy	...145.00
Canada	...Pa300	Madagascar	...Ecu225
Cyprus	...CEL20	Malta	...43 cents
Denmark	...DKr28	Norway	...Nkr29
Finland	...Fm40	Portugal	...Esc225
France	...FFr14	Spain	...Ps300
Germany	...DM45	Sweden	...Skr200
Greece	...Dr450	Switzerland	...Sfr400
Luxembourg	...Lfr80	USA	...\$25.00

**OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS:**

By mail, 13 weeks: Europe £150.75, Zone 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 50, 52, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100. (East and Australia) £205.70. To order, please send cheque payable to John News International Ltd, 43 Marlborough, London E3A 5PB or telephone 0171-538 8288. Credit cards welcome.

Back issues of the Independent are available from: Historic Newspapers, telephone 0888 402455.

**Far & away better value**

**BARBADOS**

**POWDER** white beaches

**£569** lapped by Caribbean waters of the deepest blue... pure, golden sunshine...

and a friendly laid-back lifestyle. Barbados is a magnet for the rich and famous. Now Thedevins can make it your island in the sun for as little as £569.

**TRADEWINDS**

Far & away better value

**CALL 01235 824424 FOR A BROCHURE**

AND QUOTE REF TR1 227 OR CALL INTO YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENTS

Specialist

# Jew 'banned' by community for blocking divorce

REBECCA FOWLER

A woman whose estranged husband yesterday became the first man in Britain to be formally ostracised by the Jewish community, said last night that she felt she was helping other Jewish women by pressing the action against him.

Moses David, 43, from Mill Hill, north London was alone yesterday, after being officially ostracised by the entire Jewish community on account of his acrimonious divorce from his wife, Rachel, aged 30.

The official order to the community to avoid all contact with Mr David, an unemployed computer analyst, was issued last week after he repeatedly failed to attend a Jewish court hearing over his refusal to grant Mrs David a religious divorce, known as a *get*.

Under the order, which has been posted in synagogues near his home, his fellow Jews are forbidden from sitting within six feet of Mr David, entering his home, or eating with him.

As Mr David's three children were dropped off at his sister's home, to visit him for the Sabbath yesterday, it appeared they

would be among the few guests that he will be receiving.

Although Mrs David gained a civil divorce from her husband four years ago, she cannot consider herself free to enter into another relationship until he grants her a *get*. Under Jewish law the marriage contract is literally torn into two pieces, to signify that it is over.

Mrs David, who works as a purchasing buyer for a medical equipment company, met her husband when she was only 16. They were married 13 years ago.

To many Jewish women, Mrs David's plight is a painful and fitting tale of the trials of Judaism in modern Britain.

Jewish leaders, including Dr Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi, have been attempting to change the 2,000-year-old law in order to allow women an easier route to divorce.

In her attempt to secure a divorce, Mrs David appealed to the Federation of Synagogues, a separate body to the Sephardi synagogue that Mr David attends. But he failed to respond to three summonses from Beth Din, the Jewish court.

"These declarations are issued all the time in the United

States. But in England we're much more conservative, and Jewish women have to suffer as a result," Mrs David said.

The Federation of Synagogues said yesterday that it was anxious to resolve the differences between the Davids as fairly as possible.

However, the leaders cannot make a judgement unless Mr David attends. "This law goes back hundreds of years and it inspires tremendous social pressure, even in our society, which is much freer now," said Dayan Berel Berkovits, of the Federation of Synagogues.

"We're not trying to damn this man, we're trying to use a sanction that is part of Jewish law to induce him to attend the Beth Din."

Mr David was not available for comment yesterday. The synagogue that he attends has not decided whether it will join in the *nidui* (order), and display it for members.

The head of the Sephardic Beth Din, Dayan Pinchas Toledano, told the *Jewish Chronicle*: "I've never issued a *Nidui*, and I hope I never will. I don't think this will solve the problem."

## Chief Rabbi should quit now, says Dixon's head

ANDREW BROWN  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The head of the Dixons store group, one of the most prominent Jewish businessmen in Britain, has demanded that the Chief Rabbi resign.

In a letter to the *Jewish Chronicle*, Sir Stanley Kalms, who was one of the most influential backers of Dr Jonathan Sacks for the post of Chief Rabbi when he was appointed five years ago, now says that Dr Sacks has failed to keep his electoral pledges about improving the position of women in orthodox Judaism and improving relations with the liberal and reform factions, and accuses him of dithering.

"Leadership is about firm convictions, clear strategy, and a clear, communicable action plan. Populism and survival are not on the agenda of a true leader. In fairness to himself, the Chief Rabbi should consider retiring from office. He is an academic by nature, and his talents could be immeasurably better used," he said.

### Letter highlights the crisis facing a Jewish community split into factions

Sir Stanley's call roused no noticeable enthusiasm in the Jewish community. One observer from the conservative but not quite orthodox Masorti movement, which has been bitterly attacked by the Chief Rabbi, said he believed Sir Stanley had got into "a kind of personal tiff" with Dr Sacks.

However, the controversy highlighted the considerable pressures within the Jewish community, and especially on the United Synagogue, the traditionally gentle, almost Anglican branch of orthodoxy which the Chief Rabbi heads.

The United Synagogue still contains about two-thirds of Britain's 300,000 intermittently observant Jews, but intermarriage seems to many observers to threaten the survival of the Jewish community. Dr Sacks has written a book

pointing out that the Jewish population of Britain has declined from 450,000 in the late 1950s as a result of intermarriage. Orthodox Jews count only as Jewish children whose mothers are Jews.

Two broad strategies have arisen to deal with this crisis. The first has been restrictive: within orthodoxy there has been a great rise in the number and influence of ultra-orthodox groupings such as the Lubavitch, who hope that by increasing strictness and enthusiastic breeding to preserve Judaism as something sharply distinct from the surrounding world.

The second has been the more open approach of the Reform and Liberal traditions, which have been happy to work with couples of mixed religions.

This has led to considerable bitterness on both sides. Last year, Rabbi David Goldberg, of the Liberal synagogue in St John's Wood, predicted that Dr Sacks would be the last Chief Rabbi to be accepted as even the nominal spokesman for the whole of British Jewry.



Scientific sting: Dr Joe Riley fixing one of the devices to a bee. Photograph: Newsteam

## Mini radar antennae tracks low flying bees

British scientists have invented the world's smallest radar transponder capable of tracking the low-level flight of insects.

The researchers have proved their device - which weighs just 3mg and measures 16mm - works by superheating it to bees as they leave the hive. And they now hope to refine the technology to help scientists fight disease spread by the tsetse fly in Africa.

The fly is a plague pest that attacks humans and cattle with often fatal results. Control in the past has been managed by spraying insecticide over vast areas of land, but the need for increasing environmental

sensitivity means that a better method has to be found.

Dr Joe Riley leading the research team at the Natural Resources Institute radar unit at North Site, Malvern, said: "Hopefully, the research we are doing with the bees will help us develop a similar device to track the tsetse fly. Scientists in Zimbabwe, who have been looking at the insects' habits for the past 20 years, need to know how they fly when they are close to the ground. Ordinary radar is no use because of reflections from trees and shrubs. We've used bees as a flying test-bed."

By investigating the flight pattern and behaviour of the

tsetse fly, scientists say they will then be able to place impregnated fly traps to the best effect.

First, however, the researchers will have to shrink the device by two-thirds so that it can be fitted to the tsetse.

Dr Riley explained how the technology works. "The harmonic generating tag reflects the radar signal at a different frequency which means it can be picked up in spite of the echoes from the ground. The insects are then tracked by a special radar scanner with two dishes - one to send the signal out and one to receive it... It's rather like the security tags you find on clothes in shops."

## Sarah is our bride now, say Turks

HUGH POPE  
Kahramanmaraş

British officials yesterday failed to persuade 13-year-old Essex schoolgirl Sarah Cook to comply with a High Court order to leave the Turkish family into which she has illegally "married" and to return forthwith to Britain.

Sarah left a meeting with two British consular officers after one hour, defiantly parrying reporters' questions about her plans with a shout of "Mind your own business!" as she walked off between the arms of her new "father-in-law" and his brother.

The child will stay. These two people love each other," said Turkish provincial governor Aslan Yildirim, smiling with triumph after the meeting between the two families and the British officials in his imposing town centre office. "Sarah is our bride now."

Sarah's mother Jackie Cook, lagged one minute behind her daughter, on her own, her face set. She then squashed into the waiting limousine of the pro-Islamic Welfare Party mayor of Kahramanmaraş, who has also adopted Sarah's cause. When Mrs Cook was asked if she would leave her daughter in Turkey she said: "If I go, she goes."

The British Consul, John Fox, and Vice-Consul, Trudie Pak, who had arrived from Ankara, were forced to retire to consider their options. These are limited, especially since the volatile feeling in Kahramanmaraş is overwhelmingly in favour of a union that Turkish public opinion is treating as a story of star-crossed lovers.

A senior official in Turkey's Ministry of Justice said the British High Court order had, as yet, no validity in Turkey. To prove that Sarah was a ward of a British court that wanted her taken back to Britain, he said the British Government would have to open a case in Kahramanmaraş. That procedure could take weeks, if not months.

The other option would be for Mrs Cook to put Sarah in a taxi and drive to the airport, since, in Turkish law, she is still full guardian of her daughter. If Sarah was to refuse, she could then apply to the Kahramanmaraş court to have her will implemented, the official said. "The girl wants to stay, and the mother wants to go back with Sarah to sort out her legal situation. There are huge pressures on both sides," said lawyer Selim Sumen, who is acting for Sarah's "in-laws".

Meanwhile Sarah's 18-year-old "husband", Musa, is still in a grim concrete jail outside town, accused of under-age sex, a charge that most Turks feel is unjust. They note that the wilful Sarah is taller even than her father-in-law and the older generation of Turks sees young teenage brides as normal and desirable.

The sense of injustice being done extends far up into Turkish officialdom. Governor Yildirim suggested to Turkish reporters that they start a "Free Musa" campaign.

The Kahramanmaraş MP, Ali Dogan, arrived to visit Musa in prison to support the couple and to share his belief, based on Sarah's past statements to the *Sun* newspaper, that "Sarah was not very happy in England anyway."

## Channel5 fends off Virgin bid

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Media Correspondent

Britain's fifth television channel remains on track to start next January after the High Court dismissed claims that the operating licence should not have been awarded to Channel 5 Broadcasting.

Virgin Television argued in a judicial review that the Independent Television Commission was guilty of procedural impropriety in its consideration of CSB's bid. Claims centred on whether the ITC had unfairly allowed CSB to increase its programme funding by £100m to £306m four months after the May deadline for bids.

Virgin also argued that the ITC irrationally failed Virgin's application on programme quality grounds - including its level of news staff, high level of repeats and lack of innovation. Many of its arguments were supported by UKTV, which bid £36.26m but also failed on quality, and New Century TV, the consortium led by Rupert Murdoch, which only bid £2m. Virgin and CSB both bid £22.002m.

Lord Justice Henry and Mr Justice Turner said: "We are satisfied that there was neither illegality nor unfairness in the commission recognising CSB's shareholders' commitment." Virgin, NCTV and UKTV were denied leave to appeal.

It's a digital network big enough to grow with the needs of our users.

there will always be room.

4  
news

# Animal cruelty Bill wins field sports lobby's backing

JOHN RENTOUL  
Political Correspondent

Cruelty to wild animals - except by hunting with dogs - is almost certain to become a criminal offence punishable by jail after a Labour backbencher's Bill was rushed unopposed through all its stages in the Commons yesterday.

After the failure last year of a Bill to outlaw all cruelty to animals, including a ban on hunting, Alan Meale, MP for Mansfield, secured the backing of field sports supporters by dropping anti-hunt clauses from his Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill.

The Bill would make it an offence to "mutilate, kick, beat, nail or otherwise impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate" any wild mammal.

But, unlike the Bill proposed by John McFall (Labour MP for Dumbarton) last year, it "does not seek to outlaw the hunting and killing of wild animals with dogs or the strangulation of animals with wire snares", Mr Meale told MPs. Mr McFall's Bill was scuppered by hunt supporters.

Practices such as hunting foxes with hounds, beagling, snar-

ling and lamping will still be legal. Snaring involves sending ferrets down rabbit holes to chase them out of other holes snared with wire traps. Lamping is hunting foxes at night with torches.

Mr Meale said he had reluctantly made considerable concessions after "intense" talks with pro- and anti-field sports groups. "Many of my friends and the vast majority of the pub-

lic will be disappointed... So am I." But he said that the reality was that a broader Bill would have "little chance at this time to become law - it had to be in the interests of the animal kingdom that I proceeded".

Junior Health minister Tom Sackville gave the measure "very strong support". He said: "It is a sad reflection on our society that such a Bill should be nec-

essary, that there a despicable minority of people who are prepared to commit such acts."

Sir John Cope (Conservative MP for Northavon), a member of the British Field Sports Society, welcomed the Bill, saying that Mr Meale had been "very sensible" to limit its objectives.

Mr McFall also welcomed the Bill, saying: "Only by securing

such legislation can we call ourselves a civilised society."

Kate Parminter, spokeswoman for the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, said: "We're delighted, and really optimistic about the Bill's chances this time."

Labour is committed to a free vote on the issue, which would probably go against hunting if the party won a reasonable

majority at the next election. But when pressed on animal welfare in an interview in *Country Life* magazine in September, Tony Blair, the Labour leader, said: "We are not about to change people's way of life."

Mr Meale's Bill now goes to the Lords where it is also expected to have a speedy passage and will almost certainly reach the Statute Book.

**The Maxwell affair:** Lawyers exchange opening volleys as SFO presses ahead with fresh charges over collapse

## Confident smiles turn to looks of disbelief

JOHN WILLCOCK  
Financial Correspondent

The SFO's decision to press ahead with another five counts on the original indictment against the Maxwell defendants, despite their acquittal last week on two of the counts, hit the Old Bailey court room like a bombshell.

Most learned legal opinion had expected the remaining counts against Kevin and Ian Maxwell and three former Maxwell employees to be dropped. Yesterday morning's hearing at Chichester Rents, the Old Bailey's annexe in Chancery Lane, London, was seen as a formality.

The body language of the five defendants and their attendant counsel and solicitors contrasted completely with that during the trial. Where Kevin had previously been pale and drawn, pacing the room, yesterday morning found him smiling and chatting.

There was even something of a swagger about the defendants' retinue as they regarded the five-strong SFO prosecution team sitting a few feet from them. At 10.30am, the trial Judge, Lord Justice Phillips, started the proceedings and the SFO's counsel, Richard Lissack, rose to speak.

It started innocuously. Mr Lissack explained why the SFO was dropping charges against Robert Bunn, due to ill health. Mr Bunn was originally a defendant in the first trial who had to drop out following a heart attack.

Mr Lissack added that Ian Maxwell, Kevin's elder brother, was also clear of all charges as he had "never been involved to the same degree" as alleged of the others.

Then it came: "On counts one, two and nine, we intend to prosecute Kevin Maxwell, Larry Trachtenberg and Albert Fuller..." The end of the sentence was lost as the journalists stamped out of the court to alert their offices.

Gone were the smiles. There followed a series of heated exchanges between Mr Lissack and Kevin's counsel, Alun Jones QC. Mr Jones said that the SFO said last week it would inform the defence of its decision in advance, yet he had heard nothing until receiving "anecdotal" information, minutes before the hearing, which turned out to be wrong.

Mr Lissack countered: "I tried to speak to him and he wouldn't speak to me."

Mr Jones then complained of being "caught on the hop". He said a second trial would be



Body language: Kevin Maxwell (left) and his brother, Ian, leaving the Old Bailey after the hearing yesterday

Photograph: Edward Webb

even longer than the first and would be "oppressive", "an abuse of process" and "nothing less than an outrage".

Michael Hill QC, Mr Trachtenberg's counsel, said that although he had been able to find out the SFO's intentions before the hearing, the solicitors for Mr

Fuller had not been told of the decision. "That discourtesy is a measure of how prosecution is being conducted," said Mr Hill.

Mr Lissack responded: "May I make it plain. I do not propose to rise to language like outrage, oppressive, deplorable..."

He insisted that final deci-

sions were only reached that morning because so many people's views had to be taken into consideration and all aspects of the case considered "in the minutest detail".

All those concerned had spent the past seven days considering the many factors and

how they affected each charge and each defendant, and how the public interest could best be served, he said. Keith Oliver, Kevin's solicitor, shook his head in disbelief.

Mr Lissack concluded that a new judge would not take long to read up for the second trial,

which could start in October. The existing judge, Lord Justice Phillips, one of the few in court to maintain his sang froid throughout the 70-minute hearing, agreed to Kevin having several weeks' holiday before a hearing to decide on the abuse of process claim.

## Drug tests for road victims

JOHN ARLIDGE  
Scotland Correspondent

People killed in road accidents are to be tested for drug abuse in a three-year Department of Transport survey designed to gauge the extent of Britain's growing "drug-driving" problem. Transport officials confirmed yesterday that tests will begin later this year.

The move comes after Scotland's largest police force uncovered evidence of an increase in drug-driving. In a study, Strathclyde police found that more than one in five people who died in road accidents last year had taken illegal drugs. Senior officers are now calling on the Government to introduce legislation to enable police to conduct roadside drug tests.

Toxicologists in Glasgow examined the bodies of 52 crash victims and found that 11 had consumed dangerous levels of illegal drugs. Superintendent Alastair McLuckie, who co-ordinated the Strathclyde study, which is the first of its kind by a British police force, yesterday called on ministers to change the law to enable officers to take roadside saliva or urine samples for analysis. Although it is illegal to drive under the influence of any powerful drugs, police cannot use existing legislation to force motorists to take instant tests which could lead to arrest. There are no government-approved "drugs breathalysers".

A Department of Transport spokesman said the three-year survey of crash victims, which has been planned for several months, would begin in April.

With so many memories to look back on, we're already looking forward to next year!  
Carol & Dorothy

POSTCARD

Mrs The Coast West Sun RH Eng

40 years of listening carefully to Saga customers has taught us what our holidaymakers expect. That's why so many customers book with us again. Our personal service and attention to detail by courteous and friendly staff is as reassuring as our unbeatable holiday value. Choose from a hotel, coach, cruise or special interest holiday, travel by train, boat, plane or take the car - you'll never be far from a friendly Saga representative, voted among the very best in the industry. And whether you decide on the UK,

Europe, the Mediterranean or further afield, we'll take care of all the details, leaving you free to have the time of your life. If you are aged 50 or over, call our 24-hour request line for your new holiday brochures.

FREE 0800 300 456  
Ext 3017

SAGA

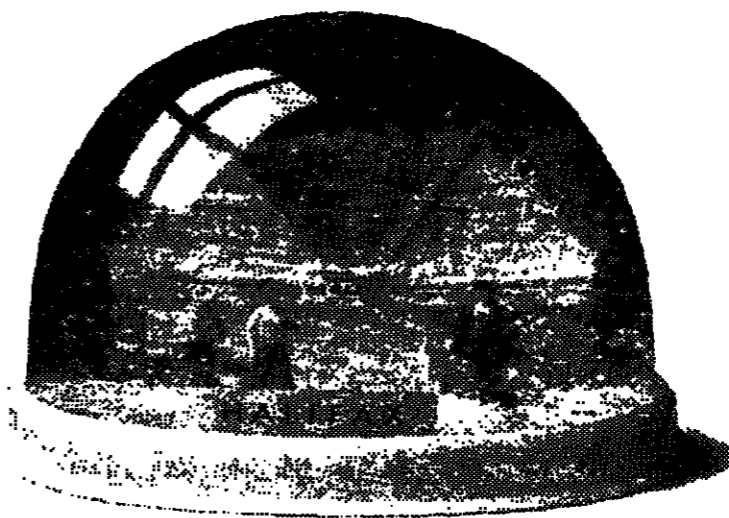
FOR THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE

Please return to: Saga Holidays Ltd., FREEPOST (NT2710), Peterlee X, Co. Durham SR88 1SH. You do not need a stamp. Please send me the following holiday brochures:

United Kingdom	Worldwide	Name (Mr/Ms/Ms)
Hotel Stays <input type="checkbox"/>	USA/Canada <input type="checkbox"/>	Address _____
University & College Centres <input type="checkbox"/>	Faraway Places <input type="checkbox"/>	Town _____ Country _____
Coach Holidays <input type="checkbox"/>	(Africa, Asia, Australasia and the Far East)	Postcode _____ Tel No. _____
Yours <input type="checkbox"/> Single Centre <input type="checkbox"/>	Cruises <input type="checkbox"/>	Date of Birth (Mr) ____/____/____ (Ms/Ms) ____/____/____
Europe & the Mediterranean	Ocean <input type="checkbox"/> River <input type="checkbox"/>	Do you currently receive brochures from Saga? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Hotel Stays <input type="checkbox"/> Coach Trips <input type="checkbox"/>		

Saga Holidays Ltd would like to send you information about services provided by other Saga companies and may pass information to these companies to enable them to do so.

## WHERE'S THE IDEAL PLACE TO GO FOR A TESSA?



Over the last five years more people have taken out a TESSA with the Halifax than with anyone else. And over the full term they enjoyed the best return from any top ten financial institution\*. Now we've launched Halifax TESSA 2, so you can look forward to even more tax-free savings. What's more, you may be able to choose a fixed rate option†.

If you'd like any more details, call into your nearest branch or phone free on 0800 10 11 10 for an information pack. When you come to the Halifax you can be sure your money will go places.



Get a little extra help.

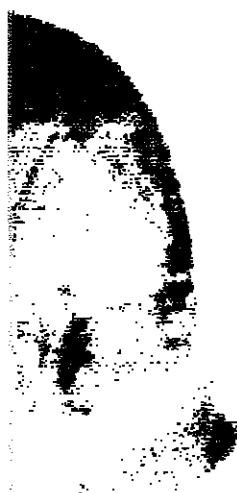
\* TOP TEN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS BASED ON TOTAL ASSETS AND IS TAKEN FROM THE LAST PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS (SOURCE: LOCAL PAST PERFORMANCE DOES NOT NECESSARILY GIVE A GUIDE FOR THE FUTURE). † TO CHOOSE THE FIXED RATE OPTION YOU MUST HAVE A HALF YEARLY TESSA IN YOUR FIRST TESSA WHEN IT MATURES AND INVEST IT IN ONE LUMP SUM IN A HALIFAX TESSA 2. ALTHOUGH WE MAY OFFER DIFFERENT FIXED RATES TO FUTURE INVESTORS WHEN THEY OPEN A HALIFAX TESSA 2 WITH THE FIXED RATE OPTION, THE INTEREST RATE WHICH WILL APPLY TO YOUR ACCOUNT IF YOU CHOOSE THE FIXED RATE OPTION WILL BE THE SAME AS THE INTEREST RATE WHICH WILL APPLY TO YOUR ACCOUNT IF YOU CHOOSE THE VARIABLE RATE OPTION. THE FIXED RATE FOR YOUR ACCOUNT WILL BE SHOWN ON YOUR CERTIFICATE OF INVESTMENT. INTEREST RATES MAY CHANGE FOR THE VARIABLE RATE OPTION. THE VARIABLE RATE FOR A HALIFAX TESSA 2 IS 2.5% AND YOU MUST BE AT LEAST 18 TO OPEN ONE. INTEREST CAN BE WITHDRAWN FROM A HALIFAX TESSA 2 BEFORE IT MATURES AWAY FROM AN AMOUNT EQUAL TO BASIC RATE INCOME. YOU MUST GIVE US 90 DAYS WRITTEN NOTICE IF YOU WANT TO CLOSE OR TRANSFER YOUR ACCOUNT DURING THE FIVE YEAR TERM. AN ADMINISTRATION FEE OF £10 WILL BE CHARGED IF A HALIFAX TESSA 2 IS TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTION. \*FINANCIAL TIMES FREE OF INCOME TAX. COPIES OF THE ACCOUNT CONDITIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT ANY BRANCH OR HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, HX1 2EG.

y's backing

Drug  
tests for  
road  
victims

THE  
PLACE

GO  
MESSA?



JP 11/10/1950

6 Thorncliffe Gdns  
Solihull  
Birmingham.

Dear Volkswagen,

Three months ago my fiancé bought  
me a Polo as an engagement present.

Knowing how expensive Volkswagens  
are I was absolutely thrilled!

Imagine my disappointment when I came  
across a magazine hidden underneath the bed.  
In it I discovered you can buy a Polo for  
a mere £7,700 'on the road'. (What does  
'on the road' mean?)

I thought I meant a lot more to  
him than that. How could he be so cheap?

Anyway, the wedding and honeymoon  
have now been cancelled. I thought you should  
know.

Yours disappointedly

Michelle Brown

P.S. I'm keeping the Polo.



RECEIVED

## news

# Court sinks Gummer's river bid

NICHOLAS SCHOON  
Environment Correspondent

The Government's attempt to redraw the boundaries of two of Britain's biggest estuaries in order to save £100m in sewage clean-up costs was quashed by a High Court judge yesterday.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, had decided to move the line where the Humber and Severn estuaries become sea dozens of miles inland for the purposes of a European Union sewage directive.

His move would have enabled Britain to escape its legal obligation to install an expensive level of treatment for the sewage of some one million people which is piped into these estuaries.

But local councils obtained a judicial review of Mr Gummer's decision, and yesterday Mr Justice Harrison pronounced that he was quite wrong to set new boundaries purely on the basis of cost considerations.

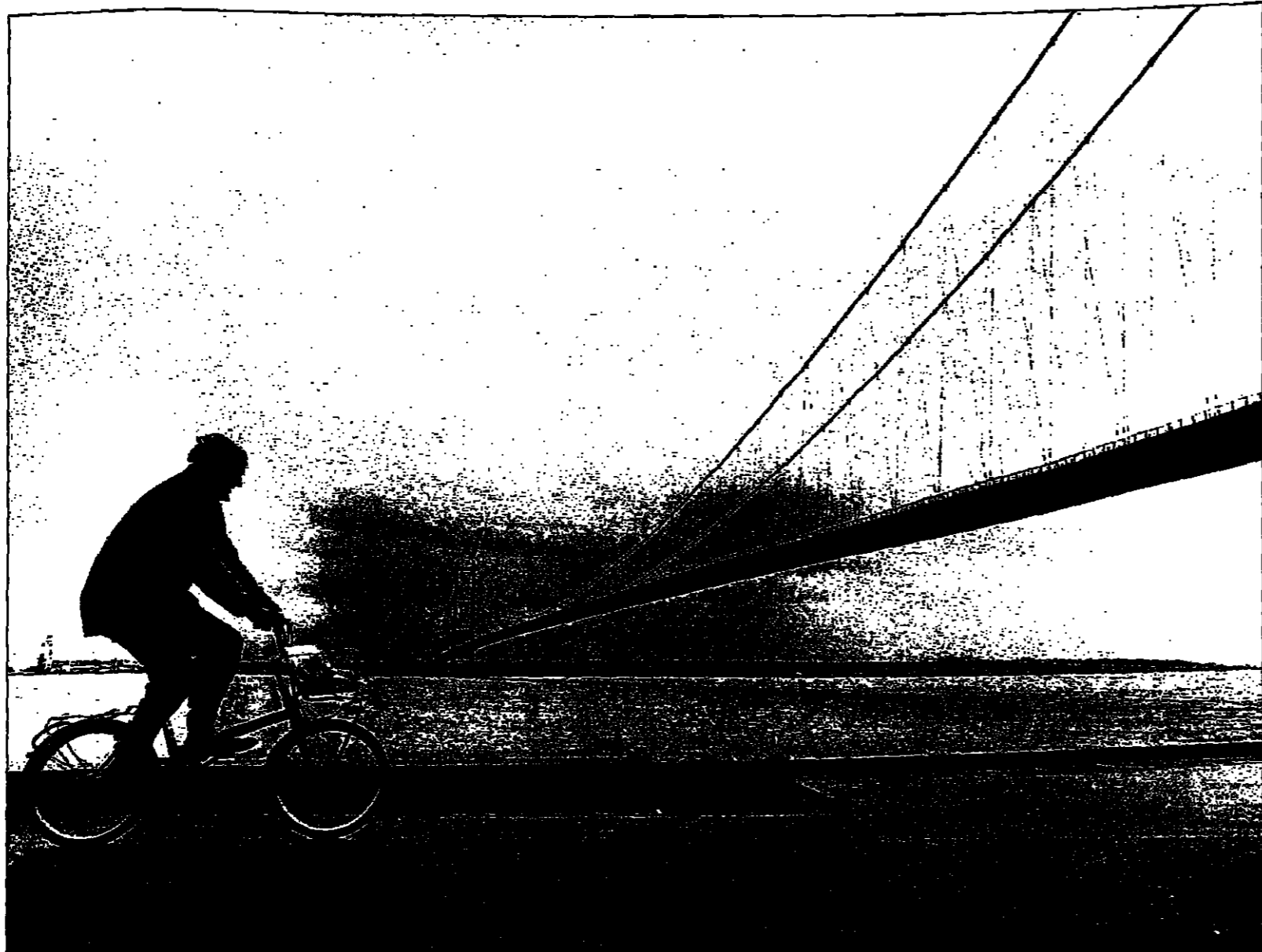
As a result of the judgment two water companies, Wessex and troubled Yorkshire, will have to spend about £100m by 2000 installing secondary treatment on their estuary sewage works, in which bacteria digest most of the sewage.

The two had planned to install only primary treatment in which the heavier, solid material is allowed to settle out and the remaining contaminated liquid pumped into the estuary.

Most of the extra cost is likely to be passed on to their customers. Ofwat, the water industry's economic regulator, said the ruling could add up to £5 a year to about three million household bills. But the city councils of Bristol and Hull were delighted by the judgment, believing it will improve the environment and the public image of their estuaries.

The EU's Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive mandates every member state to carry out secondary treatment of all sewage discharges into estuaries. But for "coastal waters", only primary treatment is needed if a government can show these are high natural dispersion areas where currents and tides rapidly dilute the effluent.

The court was told that the National Rivers Authority, the Government's water pollution watchdog, had originally suggested that the estuary boundaries should have been based on



Pipe line: A plan to make the Humber Bridge the river estuary's boundary to avoid sewage costs has been quashed

Photograph: Brian Duff

natural landmarks, salinity and a defunct 1960 Act.

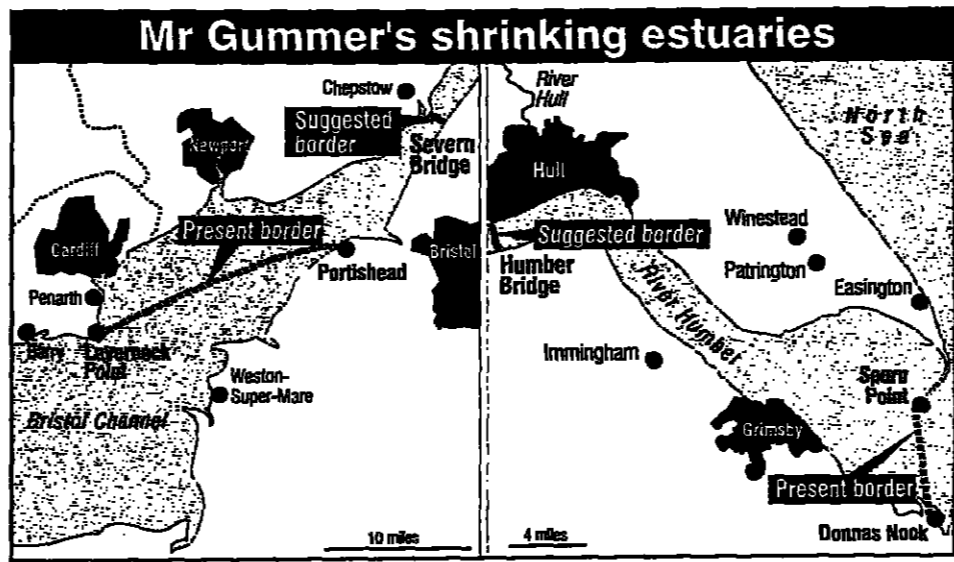
But the Government, worried about the directive's implications for water bills, asked the authority to think again. The NRA then agreed to bringing the seaward boundaries inland to the Severn and Humber suspension bridges. As a result several big estuarine sewage works were left in coastal waters. The final cost saving step was to define these waters as high natural dispersion areas.

The NRA has advised the Government, on request, that it does not believe secondary treatment would bring significant gains in water cleanliness, and the extra money might be better spent on other sewage clean-up programmes.

Nigel Piening QC, for the Department of the Environment, told the court investment in secondary treatment would be "a complete waste of £100m".

But the judge said: "It would be quite wrong to redraw the boundaries... in order to escape the clear requirement of the directive. The cost of providing secondary rather than primary treatment is simply not relevant." He refused the department leave to appeal but Mr Gummer may decide to ask the Court of Appeal for the right of appeal against the judgment.

Jackie Hawken, a solicitor for Bristol City Council, said: "We're absolutely delighted. People are very concerned about the environment in the estuary."



## Police chiefs 'ignore claims of brutality'

HEATHER MILLS  
Home Affairs Correspondent

Senior police officers were yesterday accused of failing to deal with claims of police brutality and gross misconduct, which are costing the taxpayer millions in damages and costs.

The allegations came in the wake of Thursday's inquest jury verdict that Scotland Yard officers had "unlawfully killed" Shaji Lapite during an arrest and - in a separate court - the payment of more than £90,000 in damages and costs to three people who sued for assault, wrongful imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

Thursday saw the second "unlawful killing" verdict against Metropolitan Police officers in two months. In November, a coroner's jury brought in a similar decision in the case of Richard O'Brien, who died after telling police arresting him: "I can't breathe."

In both cases, the verdict appeared to fly in the face of earlier decisions by the Crown Prosecution Service that there was insufficient evidence to prosecute any officers involved in either incident. Now the CPS has been forced to reconsider its decisions.

There have been remarkably few prosecutions to have resulted from cases involving allegations of brutality, perhaps even more surprisingly, there have been equally few disciplinary actions.

In the case of Oliver Pryce, a 30-year-old man who, like Mr Lapite, died as the result of a police neck hold, there was both an "unlawful killing verdict" and, in a civil action for damages, an admission by Cleveland police of liability. But no officers were ever charged or disciplined.

In London alone in 1994, police paid out nearly £1.4m in damages and even more in lawyers' bills, winning outright only 24 out of 304 cases. In 1993, they paid out nearly £1.1m, plus costs, winning outright only 16 of 243 cases. Over those two years - the latest for which figures are available, £1.5m was paid out to settle 48 serious claims - including one for

more than £500,000 for assault and false imprisonment.

But although dozens of police were involved in these, none were prosecuted and only four disciplined. One officer was cautioned, another fined and two "given words of advice".

Yesterday lawyers and MPs suggested the lack of any apparent action against officers, suggested "an absence of will" on the part of senior officers, including Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, to tackle the problem.

Scotland Yard declined an invitation to discuss the matter in depth, but has in the past maintained a reluctance to pursue disciplinary action because people chose to sue, rather than go through the formal complaints procedure. Their argument is: "If there is no complaint, how can there be any action?"

But Raju Bhatt, a leading London solicitor, said: "What more do they need in the form of a complaint than a detailed statement of claim and witness statements in support?"

He said that when there had been adverse findings by judges and juries, there should be even more compulsion on senior officers to investigate. "Instead, what is happening is that officers are being led to believe that their activities are acceptable because they can get away with it. If there was a suspicion that you or I, as a member of the public, had been involved in a serious attack, we would be arrested, held in custody, probably charged, and brought to court within the year."

But Sir Paul is on the record as saying that solicitors and complainants saw the police as a "soft option" to sue and that he was determined to settle less and fight more actions in court.

Yesterday, Chris Mullin, the Labour MP and veteran justice campaigner said: "The Metropolitan police are paying millions each year in damages and lawyers' fees, yet the Commissioner is flatly refusing to take any action against officers whose misbehaviour is responsible for this cost to the taxpayer. The longer this goes on, the more that public confidence will be undermined."

## Man admits thefts of rare book plates

A landscape gardener cut hundreds of pictures from libraries' rare antique books worth up to £289,000, a court was told yesterday.

Joseph Bellwood, who has been banned from going into any library until his case has been dealt with, sold or swapped them making up to £37,000.

Southwark Crown Court in south London was told by Martin Hicks, for the prosecution, Bellwood, 43, of Swillington, West Yorkshire, has admitted 12 sample charges of theft and damaging property between January 1994 and June 1995.

Mr Hicks told Judge Mota Singh that the value of the

books involved had been estimated at £189,000-£289,000. He said 1,149 plates, illustrations and prints had been stolen, mostly from the British Library, the London Library, Leeds Central Library and Birmingham Central Library, of which 439 had been recovered or traced.

Justin Shale, for the defence,

said the value of the books involved and the amount his client was said to have made were disputed. He said the volumes were worth £100,000 and Mr Bellwood's benefit £16,000. He asked for an eight-week adjournment so these matters could be dealt with. The judge agreed to continue bail.

## Ecstasy smuggler jailed for six years

A drug smuggler who brought ecstasy and "speed" valued at £5.6m into Britain was jailed for six years yesterday.

John Moore, 23, of St Helens, Merseyside, was said by his lawyer to be "somewhat immature" and had been sucked into the crime by others.

Judge Keith Simpson told him at Maidstone Crown Court: "I have no doubt whatsoever you were a very minor cog and insignificant figure in the hierarchy of drug trafficking. I can't imagine that anyone in their right mind would entrust you with £5.5m worth of drugs."

The court was told that Moore smuggled 400,000 ecstasy tablets worth £5m, and 3.64kg of 90 per cent pure amphetamine sulphate, with coach firm boss Trevor Haskayne, 56, of Meols, Wirral, was convicted in December of drug smuggling and jailed for 18 years.

David Fisher, for the prosecution, said Haskayne, boss of Montravel in West Kirby, Wirral, used a weekend shopping trip to the Netherlands by coach as a cover.

Moore, who admitted the charge, and his wife, 20, flew from Manchester to Amsterdam on 3 December 1994. They stayed with Haskayne's party at the Lancaster Hotel.

Passengers saw Moore walk to the coach carrying three large holdalls. During the journey to Calais, another passenger saw Haskayne give Moore £80.

Haskayne put a sign on the coach saying "Dunkirk Shopper, Coach 2", even though there was only one, to enable them to pass through Customs quickly. But the bus was searched and a sniffer dog found the drugs.

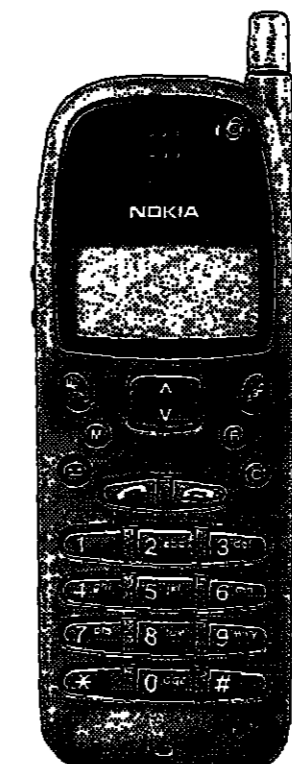
## 'Unbeatable' Nokia. Unbelievable Sale Price!

Now we have further slashed our price to bring you this unbeatable January sale bargain.

The fabulous, feature packed Nokia 232. Past winner of the coveted 'What Cellphone? Best Consumer Phone Award', achieving a maximum rating in every performance category, including value for money.

Simply phone us with your credit card details to receive your phone within 4 working days.

FREE CONNECTION TO VOICEMAIL LOWCALL WITH NO TARIFF INCREASES GUARANTEED FOR LIFE	
Monthly Rental	£15 (£12.77 + VAT)
Peak Rate Calls	30p per min (42.5p + VAT)
Off Peak Calls	20p per min (17p + VAT)
Peak times 8.00-19.00 Mon to Fri. Mandatory minimum billings charged at £1.77 inc VAT per month. Line rental (included monthly in advance) and airtime charges will be debited to your nominated credit/debit or Delta card. Calls charged in units of 30 seconds after the first minute.	



**LIMITED OFFER**  
**NOKIA 232**  
WAS £49.99 INC. VAT  
NOW  
**£24.99**  
INC. VAT

**NOKIA**  
MODEL 232  
♦ 98 name/memory ♦ 70 mins talk-time ♦ 16 hrs standby-time  
♦ Complete with battery and fast travel charger ♦ Lightweight 210g

**GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND**  
Your phone is covered by our 14 days no quibble money back promise.

Cellphones  
*direct*

ORDER NOW FOR FREE DELIVERY IN 4 WORKING DAYS

**FREephone 0500 000 888**

CREDIT CARD ORDERING HOTLINE WEEKDAYS 9AM TO 9PM WEEKENDS 9AM TO 6PM

PLEASE HAVE YOUR CREDIT CARD AND THIS ADVERTISEMENT READY WHEN YOU CALL AND HAVE SET-UP. (CARRY WE ARE ABLE TO ACCEPT SWITCH CHARGES)

Offer subject to status and a standard arm's length contract for each phone with Cellphones Direct Ltd. 105 Lower Richmond Road, Richmond-upon-Thames TW9 4LN. Full written details and terms and conditions of this offer are available on request. © Copyright. Registered No. 295522.

# Isn't the best airline in the US the best airline to the US?

United Airlines. Voted Best Domestic US Airline.

On 18th January 1996, United Airlines was voted Best Domestic US Airline. We were chosen by the readers of Executive Travel magazine, many of them frequent flyers.

They chose us for the quality of our service.

They were uninfluenced by our special 1996 fare from Heathrow to the US: £1996 return Connoisseur Class to New York (Newark and JFK) and Washington.\*

That's a 15% saving on the normal business fare on BA, Virgin or American. None of which is the Best Domestic US Airline.

To book, call United Airlines on 0181 990 9900 (0800 888 555 from outside London) or see your travel agent.

**UNITED AIRLINES**

\*OUTBOUND TRAVEL MUST COMMENCE BY 31st MARCH 1996

# 'Cats' without pause sets a record for long-playing musicals



Super trouper: Steven Wayne, the only remaining member of the original *Cats* cast, prepares for another performance Photograph: Edward Sykes

JOHN MCKIE

Andrew Lloyd Webber's award-winning musical *Cats*, which holds the accolade of London's longest-running musical, is set to enter the record books again on Monday when it becomes the longest-running musical of all time.

The show, which has grossed more than £100 world-wide in ticket sales and merchandise, will beat the previous record of 6,137 performances held by the Broadway production of *A Chorus Line*.

*Cats* opened at the New London Theatre in Covent Garden on 11 May 1981 and has played to full houses since, earning £85m in London alone.

The musical, based on TS Eliot's *Cat in Hat*, received mixed reviews when it opened but, with its revolving stage, was praised for pioneering new theatrical production values. Sue Uings, who was box office manager when *Cats* first opened and is now head of marketing for the theatrical impresario Sir Cameron Mackintosh, sees the technology as a key factor in the musical's success. "It was the



Super cats: Feline friends from the award-winning show

fore-runner of all the hi-tech musicals," she said.

Steven Wayne, the only member from the 1981 original cast still in the show, has not tired of hearing the *Cats* theme "Memory", "because everyone sings it differently. The only time it annoys me is when I am on holiday and I hear it piped in a hotel or on a plane".

However, the musical still has some way to go before it breaks the 44-year record of *The Mousetrap*, which is Britain's longest-running stage show.

## Making memories

- *Cats* has been seen by 7 million people in London alone.
- There are nine current productions playing around the world.
- In 1985, it became London's longest-running musical.
- Dame Judi Dench was due to play Grizabella but had to pull out just before the show because of an injured ankle. She was replaced by Elaine Paige, who sang the world-wide hit "Memory".
- There have been more than 100 recorded versions of "Memory". Sheet music sales of the song in the UK total 95,500.

## Building firms hit by 'cowboys'

GLENDIA COOPER

"Cowboy" builders are flourishing while reputable firms go under because home owners and the Government allow them to, according to a new report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation.

The fear of poor quality work also deters many people from doing necessary work, imperilling the house's safety. A study for National Housing Week in 1994 estimated that £69bn needed to be spent to bring the UK housing stock up to the standard.

The report, *Quality Repairs: Improving the efficiency of the housing repair and maintenance industry*, studied 80 small builders in Bristol and north Somerset and found that only half those working even in reputable firms had a formal construction industry qualification or formal business training and few employed trainees.

The report noted that a "generally minimalist" attitude to business administration was common, and new technology was rare, even for such simple tasks as word processing.

But while many reputable builders struggle on, home owners compound the problem because of their willingness to employ contractors who cut

corners and avoid VAT by accepting cash payments.

One contractor complained: "There's less work and materials have gone up but customers want cheaper prices. At times it's hardly worth working. Five years ago, I had 16 people working for me. Now I only have two and I have just a few weeks work ahead."

Cowboy builders were described as traders who put in very cheap quotes based on the cost of poor-quality materials and inexperienced workers. Work was usually of poor quality and might not comply with building standards or regulations. They were less likely to use safety procedures and unlikely to possess public liability insurance.

Another contractor reported: "Often I hear that the client has found someone who will do the work at half my estimate. To do that they must be working on the quiet. They're not qualified and they're probably claiming unemployment benefit."

But taking the cheap option can often work out more expensive. "Customers are misled. The trouble is they are not experienced enough to know what they are getting and they may not realise how bad the job is until it is too late. I often get called to sort out bodged jobs."

Fancy one of  
our mortgages?

£6,000  
says you do.

Get the Independent  
on Sunday tomorrow  
for £5 and read:

## DRUGS

The definitive guide to drugs

What they do  
What they cost  
What's fashionable  
Who's using what  
...and the risks



Buy the Independent on Sunday  
and get the Independent on  
Monday for only £5 and read:

## 20-PAGE SPORTS SECTION

Colin Jackson on life in exile and the Olympics

Tony Underwood on The Five Nations' Championship

FA Cup fourth round reports

Pilkington Cup fifth round reports

THE INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

Maybe you don't need new carpets throughout.

Or a complete change of curtains. Or the  
installments on the car paying off. Or a  
completely resculptured garden. Or a three  
week dream holiday for two.

In which case, our handsome offer is clearly  
not for you.

For the less solvent, though, it works like this:

Take out an Alliance & Leicester Cashback  
Mortgage and we'll give you a cheque worth  
4% of your new loan.

ALLIANCE  
LEICESTER

In round figures, it could amount to as much  
as £6,000.

That's the good news. Now for still better news.

Our offer applies to everyone, whether you are  
moving, buying for the first time, or simply  
wanting to switch to Alliance & Leicester from  
your current lender.

To find out more, you only have to visit your  
local branch of Alliance & Leicester or call us  
free on 0800 412 214.

£5,000 says you will.

THE SOCIETY'S BASIC VARIABLE RATE CASHBACK MORTGAGE IS ONLY AVAILABLE TO NEW CUSTOMERS OR EXISTING BORROWERS MOVING HOME. THE CASHBACK IS PAYABLE AFTER COMPLETION OF YOUR MORTGAGE. NO ARRANGEMENT FEE IS PAYABLE IN RESPECT OF THE CASHBACK MORTGAGE, BUT YOU WILL STILL INCUR SOME LEGAL AND VALUATION COSTS. THE CASHBACK WILL BE EQUAL TO 4% OF THE AMOUNT BORROWED UP TO A MAXIMUM OF £6,000 IF YOU WANT TO PAY BACK ALL OR PART OF YOUR MORTGAGE WITHIN THE FIRST 4 YEARS. A FEE MAY BE PAYABLE THIS WILL BE CHARGED AT 5 MONTHS. INTEREST IN THE SOCIETY'S BASIC VARIABLE RATE IN THE FIRST 4 YEARS, AND 4 MONTHS IN YEARS 5 AND 6. THIS EXTRA PAYMENT ONLY APPLIES TO THE CASHBACK MORTGAGE DESCRIBED IN THIS ADVERTISEMENT. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO TAKE ON THIS KIND OF OBLIGATION, YOU MAY PREFER OUR BASIC VARIABLE RATE MORTGAGE WITHOUT A CASHBACK. YOUR HOME IS SECURITY FOR THE LOAN AND MUST BE ADEQUATELY INSURED. LOANS ARE SUBJECT TO STATUS AND VALUATION AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PEOPLE AGED 18 OR OVER. "WRITTEN QUOTATIONS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST" FOR LOANS EXCEEDING 10% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS THE LOWER. A MORTGAGE HOLDERS POLICY WILL BE REQUIRED. MORTGAGES ARE RESTRICTED TO 90% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE/VALUATION. INDEPENDENT IS THE LOWEST INFORMATION CORRECT AT "THE 24 BUILDING SOCIETY, HOME ADMINISTRATION, HOME PAID, HOME EAST SUSSEX BNS TAX REPRESENTATIVE ONLY OF THE SCOTTISH AMicable MARKETING GROUP, WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY, FOR LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSIONS AND INVESTMENT BUSINESS JANUARY 1996.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

# Labour to adopt 'stakeholder' pension reform

NICHOLAS TIMMINS  
Public Policy Editor

Labour is poised to back funded second pensions as a replacement for the State Earnings Related Pensions Scheme (Serps). The move would provide growing numbers of workers, including the lower paid, who rely heavily on Serps, with their own stake in investment funds for their retirement.

The change reflects an increasing consensus, both in the pensions industry and, to a degree, politically, that second-tier pensions in future should be funded from savings, not from pay-as-you-go national insurance contributions.

But it will mark a sharp shift in Labour policy, which for twenty years has backed the retention and reconstruction of Serps, introduced by Barbara Castle in 1975 with cross-party agreement.

Chris Smith, Labour's social security spokesman, said yesterday that no final decisions

had been taken. But in an interview with the Independent, he said: "There must be serious question marks about the long-term sustainability of pay-as-you-go models for second tier pensions" - where today's taxation or contributions pays for today's pensions and the money is not invested.

Since 1988, the Government has cut the final value of Serps by three-quarters, in part because of fears that with rising numbers of elderly up to the year 2030, future taxpayers would not pay the additional £50bn a year the full Serps pensions would have cost.

"Any pay-as-you-go scheme is open to the predatory attacks of governments less sympathetic to the needs of a future generation," Mr Smith said. Funded second pensions with defined contributions producing a decent rate of return looked "ultimately a better approach".

Decisions would still be needed on whether to continue Serps for the present generation of members, to run a funded second tier for them alongside as an alternative, or to "try to transfer everyone into a new scheme with the absolute guarantee that they will be no worse off than if Serps continued".

Indicating that he would favour the latter if the transfer costs were acceptable, Mr Smith said the alternative to Serps need not be a single, National Pensions Scheme, privately run at arms-length from Government, as advocated by this week's Retirement Income Inquiry. A better solution could be a range of competing funds where "the Government sets the parameters and the private sector is involved in the development of the product."

In Australia, from where Mr Smith had just returned, intense competition within the private sector to run Government-defined industry-wide pension schemes had produced "remarkably low" running costs of one to two per cent, he said - a lesson Britain could learn.

of members, to run a funded second tier for them alongside as an alternative, or to "try to transfer everyone into a new scheme with the absolute guarantee that they will be no worse off than if Serps continued".

Indicating that he would favour the latter if the transfer costs were acceptable, Mr Smith said the alternative to Serps need not be a single, National Pensions Scheme, privately run at arms-length from Government, as advocated by this week's Retirement Income Inquiry. A better solution could be a range of competing funds where "the Government sets the parameters and the private sector is involved in the development of the product."

In Australia, from where Mr Smith had just returned, intense competition within the private sector to run Government-defined industry-wide pension schemes had produced "remarkably low" running costs of one to two per cent, he said - a lesson Britain could learn.



Eye of the storm: Richard Branson and his co-pilots at a press shoot in Morocco yesterday as rain blighted their plans

Balloon bid: Sponsors of round-the-world flight are edged out of the limelight

## Branson hogs hot air of publicity

CHARLES ARTHUR  
Science Correspondent

Many of the sponsors of Richard Branson's project to fly a helium-filled balloon non-stop around the world have found themselves edged out of the media spotlight - to their growing annoyance.

While Mr Branson has courted attention from newspapers, radio and television on behalf of the three Virgin companies co-sponsoring the project - which has an estimated cost of £2.5m - the other 91 sponsors involved with it have struggled to win any attention at all.

Bad weather has delayed the balloon's take-off by more than a week from its planned start, and it will probably not take off from Marrakesh, in southern Morocco, until next week.

A number of sponsors are privately fuming at the manner in which Virgin has taken the

lion's share of the publicity, while spending comparatively little.

Almost all the equipment for the project - including the high-technology balloon material and propane fuel to power the engines needed to keep the three-man crew alive while aloft - has been donated by outside companies.

Many people have worked for free to assemble and test the balloon, though their hotel costs are being covered by Virgin. The team, numbering almost 50 people, has now been at the site near Marrakesh for almost two weeks while the weather - particularly the pattern of winds - has made a take-off impossible.

The balloon material consists of 16,000sq ft of high-strength, aluminium-coated plastic worth at least £15,000, provided by HIFI Industrial Film, based in Stevenage. The company, with

annual revenues of just £7.5m, had hoped to benefit from publicity. Instead, it has found its name almost submerged, while the balloon now bears Virgin's name in large letters. "We have had to fight for everything," said Andrew Mallard, who represented the firm in Morocco.

The 4.5 tons of specially processed liquid propane fuel that will power the engines was provided free by Mobil. Just over a fortnight ago, Mobil received an urgent request to deliver the fuel to Marrakesh - three days ahead of schedule. But on arriving two weeks ago, the drivers, paid by Mobil, were told that the balloon would not be lifting off for at least five days.

But David Partridge, a Virgin director who is the project's manager, says this was because Mr Branson was very keen not to be beaten in the attempt to make the first non-stop cir-

cumnavigation. That was threatened earlier this year by the launch of a balloon piloted by an American, Steve Follert.

"Our original plan for when we wanted the propane and helium went out the window when Steve Follert took off. Richard wanted everything done right away. We didn't want any hold-up caused by the balloon being ready but the helium or propane not being there."

"Richard, in his zest to be first and not beaten, applied pressure on me and everybody in the team to make it work."

However, the delays caused by the weather have meant that the extra effort has gone to waste, and left observers wondering what the rush was about.

If the unfavourable weather continues into February, the attempt may have to be abandoned until November, when air conditions at 30,000ft will once again be suitable to try a flight.

## Britain's lowest prices guaranteed

**No Quibble DOUBLE THE DIFFERENCE Refund**

IF YOU FIND THE SAME PRODUCT IN STOCK & CHEAPER ANYWHERE WITHIN 7 DAYS OF YOUR PURCHASE

**YOU PAY the price YOU SEE nothing more**

ALL OUR PRICES INCLUDE VAT AT 17.5%

**SHARP FONTWRITER FW600 WORD PROCESSOR**  
(Code 203-443)

- 30k editable character memory
- 14 lines/99 character LCD display
- 3.5" 790k built-in disk drive
- 80k spell check • 70 cps print speed • 1 year warranty

**NOW ONLY £292.58 34% off**

**TEXAS T15045 PRINTING CALCULATOR**  
(Code 204-073)

- One line, 12 digit LCD display
- Features square root, percent, mark up and treble zero keys
- 4 memories
- Print roller
- Mains adaptor

**NOW ONLY £29.37 20% off**

**ROLTECH FAX ROLLS**

- Wide range of quality fax rolls to suit all types and sizes of fax machines
- Sold in packs of 6

**FROM ONLY £11.65 39% off**

**OKIFAX 350 FAX MACHINE**  
(Code 204-070)

- Fine and photo mode • Photocopy facility
- Sends documents up to A4 in size
- Pulse/tone dialling

**NOW ONLY £175.08 34% off**

**OFFICE WORLD 4-DRAWER FILING CABINET**  
(Code 203-851/854)

- Made from top quality sheet steel
- Welded internal front frame for maximum stability
- Accepts footscrew suspension files
- Available in Grey or Brown and Cream

**NOW ONLY £89.29 20% off**

**ECONOMY WHITE DL SELF SEAL ENVELOPES 1000 PACK**  
(Code 090-489)

- Wallet style envelopes
- Ideal for all volume mailing applications

**NOW ONLY £10.56 10% off**

**AURORA HIGH BACK LEATHER FACED CHAIR**  
(Code 304-913/916)

- Height adjustable seat
- 27" wooden base
- Available with either beech or walnut arms & base

**NOW ONLY £139.83 60% off**

**GOLDSTAR GF3010 FAX/AM**  
(Code 903-551)

- Combined fax and answer machine
- Fine/super transmission modes
- 60 memory store • Last number redial
- Transmission report and paper cutter
- Photocopy facility

**NOW ONLY £304.33 13% off**

**ADVANTAGE Take it away today. Take up to 5 years to pay.**

► SPREAD THE COST OF YOUR PURCHASES OVER UP TO 5 YEARS ► NO DEPOSIT REQUIRED ► LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS ► PAYMENT PROTECTION AVAILABLE

**Office World**

**OVER 5,000 OFFICE SUPPLIES, STATIONERY, FURNITURE & BUSINESS PRODUCTS - AT GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES.**

**FREEPHONE 0800 500024**

**5,000 PRODUCTS FREE DELIVERY IN 24 HOURS**

**43 SUPERSTORES NATIONWIDE**

BEDFORD • BIRMINGHAM • BLACKPOOL • BRADFORD • BRISTOL • CAMBRIDGE • CHELMSFORD • CHELTENHAM • CHESTER • COVENTRY • DUNDEE • DUNDEE • EXETER • GLASGOW • GLOUCESTER • HARLOW • LEICESTER • LINCOLN • LONDON (Colindale, Old Kent Road, Park Royal, Tottenham, Western Avenue) • LUTON • MANCHESTER • MILTON KEYNES • NOTTINGHAM • OXFORD • PETERBOROUGH (OPENS FEB 1996) • PORTSMOUTH • PRESTON • READING • SHEFFIELD • SLOUGH • SOUTHAMPTON • SWANSEA (OPENS FEB 1996) • SWINDON • TAUNTON • WARRINGTON • WIGAN • YORK

Open Monday to Friday 8am-8pm, Saturday 9am-6pm, Sunday 10.30am-4.30pm.

**There's always more % off at Office World**

The No 1 Office Supplies Discount Superstore

All previous prices in the above examples were charged at all Office World Superstores open at 15th January 1996. All products subject to availability. Prices valid until 7th March 1996. Free nationwide next day delivery on orders over £50 to UK in England, Scotland and Wales, excluding Scottish Highlands, starts off the mainland and Northern Ireland. Please allow up to 4 days for delivery.

# Hey listen, banking needn't be a hassle.

**Listen to TSB PhoneBank in action**

**CALL FREE 0500 758 748**

Hard to believe, but true. Banking really can be a breeze.

You needn't take our word for it, simply listen to our demonstration line. And find out how TSB PhoneBank enables you to do just about all your banking over the phone.

From normal business like checking your balance, transferring money and paying bills, to bigger issues like arranging loans, overdrafts and home insurance.

A password system ensures that TSB PhoneBank is 100% secure. And since you can talk to us (not to machines you'll be glad to hear) 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, there's no doubt the service is 100% convenient.

As well as that, you'll also have access to over 15,000 cash machines and all our branches.

So give the TSB PhoneBank demonstration line a call. It lasts just two minutes and afterwards you can talk to an advisor if you want to know more.

Do it now, because all you have to lose is hassle.

**PhoneBank**

**TSB We want you to say YES**

TSB Cheque Account required. Loans subject to status. Written quotations available upon request. Some calls will be recorded and monitored. TSB Bank plc. Registered office: Victoria House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B1 1BZ. Registered in England and Wales. Number 1089258. TSB Bank Scotland plc. Registered office: Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland. Number 95297.

## Bad news from Bonn heightens EMU fears

SARAH HELM  
Brussels  
PAUL WALLACE  
Economics Editor

Predictions that European Monetary Union may have to be delayed were reinforced yesterday by new figures suggesting that even Germany may fail to meet the conditions for the 1999 launch date.

On Thursday British ministers suggested that the collapse of monetary union plans was imminent and that France and Germany may be forced to change course within weeks.

The remarks were fiercely rejected yesterday by the European Commission and treated with suspicion in many European capitals, where the comments were widely seen as an attempt to undermine the entire venture.

However, serious doubts about the feasibility of merging major European currencies on the terms set out in the Maastricht treaty remained widespread. Speaking at a conference in Germany yesterday, Philippe Séguin, the Gaullist head of the French National Assembly, described the present EMU timetable as "risky and questionable".

Germany's latest economic predictions added to the gloom. Bonn announced that it expects its public spending deficit for 1996 to be about 3.5 per cent of economic output - exceeding the Maastricht rules for joining EMU by 0.5 of a point. Countries wishing to join monetary union in 1999 must have achieved the 3 per cent deficit limit by the end of 1997. Earlier this month, Theo Waigel, the German finance minister, predicted that Germany's budget deficit would be brought down in time to the 3 per cent level. His predictions now seem highly optimistic.

A report by the economics ministry said that the German economy would grow by only 1.5 per cent this year. Unemployment would rise by 250,000 to average 10 per cent of the workforce - up from 9.4 per cent in 1995.

But officials in Bonn made it clear last night that the government is determined to stand firm on the EMU timetable, in the belief that any weakening would remove budgetary discipline from Germany and other EU countries and make the economic situation worse.

The European Commission continued to reject predictions of imminent collapse. Officials accused British ministers of capitalising on the wave of nervousness in Europe for domestic political purposes; the Government negotiated an opt-out from the single currency at the Maastricht summit in 1991, and Tory Eurosceptics have demanded a commitment to keep sterling independent but the Prime Minister has refused to make a decision until next year.

"Nothing that has happened this week suggests any real sapping of political will in France or Germany," said one senior official. Commission economists argue that the economic news is not yet so desperate that the EMU timetable, or rigid budgetary discipline, must be abandoned. This would only happen if a recession looked inevitable "and there are no signs of that," they insist. Other economists are not so confident.

Speaking in Paris, Yves Thibault de Silguy, the EU Economic Commissioner, repeated earlier Commission predictions that between eight and 10 countries should be able to meet the Maastricht criteria for monetary union by the end of 1997. He said that a delay in the launch would mean a renegotiation of the Maastricht treaty.

## Military might on display for India's Republic Day



Turban power: Sikh troops in the parade in New Delhi yesterday to mark the anniversary of India becoming a republic in 1950. India's newest missiles and tanks were also displayed. Photograph: Ajit Kumar/AP

## Polish leader wants secret files opened

ADRIAN BRIDGE  
Central Europe Correspondent

Poland's President, Aleksander Kwasniewski, is to push for the country's Communist-era secret police files to be opened. The move follows the resignation of the Prime Minister, Jozef Oleksy, over claims that he was a KGB spy.

Mr Kwasniewski, a former Communist, wants the files to be made accessible to an independent commission that would then be able to rule whether candidates for senior government posts had been informers.

The aim of the legislation, which would be modelled on that passed for East Germany, would be to draw a line under the Communist past and establish ground rules on the extent to which politicians can be judged today for what they did in the past. "I would like to help Poles... settle accounts from the more distant and the recent past," said Mr Kwasniewski, who, like most ex-Communists, previously opposed any opening of the secret-police files. His change of heart was undoubtedly prompted by the fate of Mr Oleksy, his party colleague, who spent the past month trying to defend himself against allegations that he was a Moscow spy for more than a decade.

Even as he announced his resignation on Wednesday, Mr Oleksy insisted he was innocent but acknowledged he had been friendly for many years with a Russian diplomat who worked for the KGB. That the Prime Minister was forced to quit before having been found formally guilty undermined the continuing potency of the past, and the extent to which nearly all senior east European politicians still live under its shadow.

The only former Warsaw Pact country that fully opened its files is the old East Germany, where anyone who worked for the secret police has been barred from public office and where everybody has been entitled to see their own files. Although the decision to open the files was controversial, it has been considered a success, ensuring that allegations are based on fact rather than rumour and allow-

ing ordinary east Germans to find out at last who it was who was spying on them for all those years.

Mr Kwasniewski is involved in talks with party leaders aimed at agreeing a successor to Mr Oleksy. In the legislation he intends to present to parliament, he will propose a commission to oversee the files, now in the charge of the interior ministry. The commission is to have access to all pre-1989 files and, in special cases, more recent ones.

The President's former Communist party colleagues in the governing Democratic Left Alliance are likely to support the move. As part of their attempt to show themselves to be genuinely reformed social



Kwasniewski: Drawing a line under Communism

democrats, they want to be seen to be open and honest about their backgrounds.

Ironically, resistance to the new law is likely to come from the centre and right opposition parties, which feel the initiative is a smokescreen to deflect attention from the Oleksy affair.

Some analysts say the opening of the files could reveal more collaborators from the ranks of the old Solidarity movement than among the former Communists themselves.

But then, as the east Germans discovered, much of the information in the files was fabricated by agents over-anxious to please their bosses. And the files of many of the old Communists who really worked as informers mysteriously disappeared just before the final collapse of Communism in 1989.

### IN BRIEF

#### Students jailed after secret trial

Cairo — Twenty-four Libyan students were tortured and convicted in a secret trial on charges of taking part in anti-government riots, Amnesty International said. They are believed to be serving terms of up to nine years, and are not being allowed access to their families or lawyers. AP

#### No apology

Oslo — Israel agreed to pay compensation to the wife and daughter of Ahmed Bouchikhi, an innocent Moroccan waiter killed during a bungled 1973 Mossad assassination in Norway, but stopped short of apologising, according to lawyers for the family. AP

#### Internet Nazis

Bonn — Deutsche Telekom, Germany's biggest Internet provider, cut off access to neo-Nazi material posted on the global network by Ernst Zündel, a German right-wing extremist living in Canada, a day after prosecutors said they were considering incitement charges against the telephone company and another firm. AP

#### 'Anti-white' Mandela

Johannesburg — South Africa's neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement accused President Nelson Mandela of being "anti-white" for agreeing to meet the black American Muslim leader Louis Farrakhan, who arrives for a visit today. Reuters

#### All wrong

Houston, Texas — A pregnant runaway girl who touched off an international search because she was thought to be ten has turned out to be 14. She was also not as far along in her pregnancy as had been reported, or going by her correct name. Reuters

#### Picture rail

Bordeaux — Teachers in Bordeaux, where the French Prime Minister, Alain Juppé, is mayor, protested that his portrait had been hung in several schools and nurseries. Reuters

#### Kiss of freedom

Dedham, Massachusetts — Christopher Glover, 20, escaped from jail after his girlfriend, Shannon Rideout, managed to pass him a key to his handcuffs during a passionate kiss. He was recaptured, and both face charges. AP

**If the State can't provide financial security, shouldn't you make a Resolution to keep something up your sleeve?**



Taking steps to secure your financial future is probably the last thing on your mind as you ring in the New Year.

Trouble is, with less and less State money for welfare demands like pensions and support during illness, you really can't afford to put it off.

You have to plan now, and make it your resolution to do something before this growing lack of provision affects you and your family.

So where do you start? Talk to an independent financial adviser. Whatever your concerns — mortgage cover, schooling, health

care — you'll get expert and impartial advice. Advice that is precisely tailored to your particular circumstances, and will answer your financial needs.

Call us today for a free information pack. And make sure there's a happy New Year on the cards. 0117 971 1177

**It's your future. Take control of it.**

Send to: IPA Promotions Limited, 17-19 Emery Road, Brompton, Bristol, BS4 5PE, or call 0117 971 1177. Please send me a free information pack and a list of these independent financial advisers convenient to my work or home address below. (We guarantee that no sales person will call or phone as a result of this coupon.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Power of Independent Financial Advice:**

- An impartial choice from all the financial options available
- Expertise in savings, investments, pensions, protection
- A review of your individual needs
- And you see the blue sign.

This advertisement appears on behalf of independent financial advisers and has been approved by a person regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Not all of these products are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority.

**SALE**  
Up to  
**£500**

OUR SPECTACLES

**DOLLOND & AITCHISON**



## international

# Remember me, but let me go – that's it'

## Death Row: Utah execution goes 'like clockwork'

DAVID USBORNE  
Draper, Utah

It had been denounced worldwide as inhumane and barbaric. And so, maybe, it was. But the execution by firing squad of John Albert Taylor, convicted child killer, was swift and surprisingly clinical. It was not a messy death – as with Gary Gilmore 19 years ago – but precision-perfect. It passed, in fact, exactly

as both the victim and executioners had wanted.

When their triggers were pulled at 12.04am, the five .30 hunting rifles delivered one clean report – an abrupt "boom", said one of the witnesses. Strapped into the specially designed execution chair just 20ft away, Taylor probably never heard the explosion. The bullets that entered his heart would have travelled faster than

the speed of sound. Within three minutes, he was pronounced dead.

It was what remained afterwards that best described an execution that had been so painstakingly orchestrated. In the plywood that had been behind the convict, the bullets had made just a single hole, about a third of an inch deep and so narrow that a dime would have covered it.

Thus, Utah, which in 2002 will be host to the Winter Olympics, was a state experiencing relief yesterday. For many among its majority Mormon population who still believe in the teachings of their church's earliest leaders, the required "blood atonement" had been duly achieved. But while blood had been spilled – a slowly spreading patch of dampness on Taylor's dark prison jumpsuit where a small white target had been placed, indicating his heart – there had been no gushing and no gore. "It was like clockwork," the prison warden, Hank Galetka, declared. "It went as rehearsed."

When Gilmore was shot for the killing of a motel clerk, he was strapped to a simple office chair. Whisky had been smuggled in to the chamber, and money changed hands as reporters bought the accounts of witnesses. And there was no metal pan under the chair to catch his blood. But Taylor's



Killer: John Albert Taylor shackled in his cell

passing was like Gilmore's in one respect. He never once wavered from his determination to go through with it. Even at the last moment, he could have asked to resume his appeals process. But he did not. And it was he who, one month earlier,

had opted for death by firing squad rather than by lethal injection.

Beverly DeVoy, a freelance journalist who was one of Taylor's three invited witnesses, said health problems – an enlarged heart, bleeding ulcers and



Victim: Charla King, seven, 1984 Photographs: AP

ter. Only occasionally were their hints of anguish. 22.48 – Taylor is crying, sitting very still with his head bowed.

Even in his death chair, when given the opportunity to make a last statement, Taylor was sanguine. "I would just like to say to my family, my friends, as the poem was written: 'Remember me, but let me go.' In a whisper, he added: 'That's it'.

The warden then retreated to the back of the chamber, counted out loud to three and ordered, "Fire!"

Taylor never confessed to the murder for which he was executed. In an interview last Monday with two high-school reporters, he said again that he had not murdered Charla King, 11. The girl was discovered dead on her bed by her mother, Sheron King, on 23 June 1989 – naked, a telephone cord around her neck and her underwear stuffed in her mouth. Of Mrs King, Taylor said: "There's really not much I can say to her. I'm sorry for her loss... I didn't do it."

Taylor's mood in his final hours in a "death watch" cell adjacent to the execution chamber was depicted in pithy

progress reports typed out hourly from mid-afternoon and distributed to the media.

For example: 22.00 – Inmate Taylor seems to be in good spirits. Visiting with his attorneys.

22.10 – Constant conversation, sprinkled with frequent laugh-

## Hillary Clinton takes oath over Whitewater

JOHN CARLIN  
Washington

Hillary Clinton was testifying under oath yesterday before a grand jury seeking to establish whether she is deceitful or just plain disorganised. If the 23 members of the grand jury, who conduct their work in total secrecy, find sufficient evidence that the wife of the President of the United States lied, she could be indicted for conspiracy to obstruct justice.

In the absence, however, of any clarity as to what exactly it is Mrs Clinton might be covering up, it appears more likely that the impact of the hearing will be more political than criminal, providing ammunition in this election year to those who question President Bill Clinton's judgement and integrity.

Mrs Clinton's undignified ordeal yesterday, one never before endured by a First Lady, revolves around a pile of legal documents sought for two years by investigators into the complex Whitewater investment affair.

The papers eventually turned up in the private quarters of the White House.

The 116 pages contain the records of work done by Mrs

Clinton 10 years ago as a partner in the Rose law firm in Arkansas on behalf of Madison Guaranty, a savings bank that went bankrupt and which was owned by the Clintons' partner in the ill-fated Whitewater property venture.

Before a White House aide stumbled upon the documents, which were simply lying on a table in the First Family's book room, three weeks ago, Mrs Clinton had maintained that her work for Madison Guaranty had been "minimal". The records indicate that over 15 months she did 60 hours of work for Madison. Debate continues over whether that was "minimal" involvement or not.

Mrs Clinton said in a newspaper interview published yesterday that it would be "a relief" to answer prosecutors' questions. "This is not a first that I'm particularly pleased about," she said, "but I think that it's a necessary part of the investigation, and I intend to co-operate."

Speaking of what she called her "limited" work for Madison Guaranty, she said that had she foreseen 10 years ago that people "would try to distort it to undermine my reputation and my law practice, of course I would not have done it."

## Yeltsin reshuffle ends with pledge to stand by reforms

PHIL REEVES  
Moscow

Boris Yeltsin yesterday declared that his government reshuffle was more or less complete, after a turbulent few weeks in which he has lunched towards the headline camp and given his supporters at home and abroad a nasty dose of the jitters.

The President also reiterated his commitment to reforms – a move clearly intended to soothe international concern about the purge of top liberals from his administration and his attempt to use force to crush Chechen rebels in Dagestan. And he was jubilant about Russia's acceptance on Thursday into the Council of Europe.

However, with only five months to go before a presidential election, he seems to be shifting his definition of reform in the hope of winning over the millions of impoverished Russians who, denied the fruits of the emerging free market, have turned to the Communists and ultra-nationalists.

The Boris Yeltsin of 1996 no longer talks of anti-inflationary policies, but waxes lyrical about spending on social issues. Take the last few days: he has agreed to pay more than \$4.5bn (£2.9bn) to Chechnya; ordered an increase in pensions and student grants; and declared that a "President's social fund"

would be set up to cover government workers' salaries if their wages were delayed.

Yesterday – despite reports that Russia's new strategy could jeopardise a \$9bn loan from the International Monetary Fund – there was more of the same: "The most important task is... protection of the social and economic rights of the people," Mr Yeltsin told a meeting of regional officials.

Meanwhile, the President defended his government purge by saying that it was "dictated by conditions". As part of this process, he has thrown overboard his chief economics strategist, Anatoly Chubais, his chief of staff, Sergei Filatov, and the Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozlov. These changes have coincided with rumblings from Russia about a shift of focus away from the West and towards the East, principally India, China and Iran.

But there were signs yesterday that the recent friction with Washington, which was particularly alarmed by the sackings, was beginning to ease. After initially turning down an invitation to Moscow from Russia's new Foreign Minister, Yevgeny Primakov, the US Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, has agreed to a private meeting with him in Helsinki on 10 and 11 February, followed by an official visit to Moscow in March.

**SAVE UP TO £160 ON AUTOWASHERS**

<b>PHILCO</b>	SAVE £120
1000 SPIN ECOLOGICAL AUTOWASHER WITH 10Lb WASH LOAD Model W1000SE. Was £299.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY '96	SALE PRICE £179.99
<b>CREDA</b>	SAVE £100
1000 SPIN ECOLOGICAL AUTOWASHER Model W1000SE. Was £299.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY '96	SALE PRICE £199.99
<b>PHILCO</b>	SAVE £100
1000 SPIN ECOLOGICAL AUTOWASHER Model W1000SE. Was £299.99. BUY NOW PAY JANUARY '97	SALE PRICE £199.99
<b>HOOVER</b>	SAVE £60
1000 SPIN SOFT WAVE AUTOWASHER Model AC772. Was £399.99. BUY NOW PAY NOVEMBER '96	SALE PRICE £339.99
<b>HOTPOINT</b>	SAVE £130
1200 SPIN AQUARIUS AUTOWASHER Model W1200SE. Was £529.99. BUY NOW PAY NOVEMBER '96	SALE PRICE £399.99

**HOTPOINT**  
800 Spin Aquarius Autowasher with 11lb Wash Load  
■ Quick wash facility.  
■ Slow spin button.  
Model W113P. Was £449.99. Was £299.99. **£289.99**

**SAVE £110**

**HOTPOINT**  
1000 Spin Aquarius Autowasher  
■ Takes an 11lb wash load.  
■ Quick wash facility.  
■ 'No heat' economy wash button.  
■ Super rinse button.  
Model W113P. Was £449.99. Was £339.99. **£379.99**

**BUY NOW PAY JULY '96 SALE PRICE**

**CANDY**  
1000 Spin Ecological Autowasher  
■ 18 programmes.  
■ 10lb wash load.  
Model C1040. Was £349.99. **£249.99**

**ZANUSSI**  
1200 SPIN JETSYSTEM AUTOWASHER Model J120S. Was £499.99. Was £399.99. **£499.99**

**BOSCH**  
1100 SPIN ECOLOGICAL AUTOWASHER Model W1000SE. Was £599.99. Was £499.99. **£599.99**

**Hotpoint** SAVE UP TO £160

**HOOVER** SAVE UP TO £150

**ZANUSSI** SAVE UP TO £130

**PHILCO** SAVE UP TO £140

**BOSCH** SAVE UP TO £80

**Currys**

**BIGGEST EVER SALE**

**SAVE UP TO £150 ON WASHER DRYERS**

**HOOVER**  
1100 Spin Soft Wave Washer Dryer  
■ 10lb wash load.  
■ Crease guard facility.  
Model A8756/A8754. Was £549.99. **£399.99**

**PHILCO**  
1000 SPIN ECOLOGICAL WASHER DRYER Model W1000SE. Was £399.99. BUY NOW PAY OCTOBER '96 **£349.99**

**PHILCO**  
1200 SPIN ECOLOGICAL WASHER DRYER Model W1200SE. Was £499.99. BUY NOW PAY OCTOBER '96 **£359.99**

**CANDY**  
1000 SPIN ECOLOGICAL WASHER DRYER Model C1040. Was £479.99. BUY NOW PAY OCTOBER '96 **£369.99**

**HOTPOINT**  
1200 SPIN FIRST EDITION WASHER DRYER Model W1200SE. Was £499.99. BUY NOW PAY OCTOBER '96 **£399.99**

**HOTPOINT**  
1000 SPIN AQUARIUS WASHER DRYER Model W1000SE. Was £499.99. BUY NOW PAY OCTOBER '96 **£479.99**

**HOOVER**  
1200 SPIN NEW WAVE WASHER DRYER Model A8756/A8754. Was £599.99. BUY NOW PAY NOVEMBER '96 **£519.99**

**SAVE UP TO £130 ON TUMBLE DRYERS**

**WHITE KNIGHT**  
7.5L TUMBLE DRYER Model 711. Was £129.99. **£99.99**

**WHITE KNIGHT**  
11L TUMBLE DRYER Model 112. Was £129.99. **£119.99**

**WHITE KNIGHT**  
11L REVERSE ACTION TUMBLE DRYER Model 112A. Was £129.99. **£139.99**

**HOTPOINT**  
7.5L FIRST EDITION TUMBLE DRYER Model T11P. Was £149.99. **£149.99**

**HOTPOINT**  
11L AQUARIUS TUMBLE DRYER Model T11P. Was £229.99. Was £169.99. **£169.99**

**HOTPOINT**  
11L TUMBLE DRYER Model T11P. Was £229.99. Was £199.99. **£199.99**

**BOSCH**  
11L TUMBLE DRYER Model T11P. Was £229.99. Was £219.99. **£219.99**

**ZANUSSI**  
11L CONDENSER DRYER Model TC 476. Was £299.99. BUY NOW PAY NOVEMBER '96 **£269.99**

**SAVE UP TO £130 ON DISHWASHERS**

**EUROTECH**  
FULL SIZE DISHWASHER Model D12. Was £299.99. **£199.99**

**HOTPOINT**  
FULL SIZE AQUARIUS DISHWASHER Model D12. Was £449.99. BUY NOW PAY OCTOBER '96 **£349.99**

**BOSCH**  
CLIMATE ECOLOGICAL DISHWASHER Model S1624. Was £449.99. BUY NOW PAY NOVEMBER '96 **£369.99**

**ZANUSSI**  
FULL SIZE AQUARIUS DISHWASHER Model D12. Was £449.99. BUY NOW PAY NOVEMBER '96 **£419.99**

**CANDY**  
Full Size Ecosystem Dishwasher  
■ Takes 12 place settings.  
■ Delicates programme.  
■ 4 programmes.  
■ Built-in water softener.  
Model C4100. Was £399.99. **£249.99**

**BUY NOW PAY JULY '96 VOUCHER PRICE**

**HOOVER**  
Full Size Soft Wave Dishwasher  
■ Takes 12 place settings.  
■ 3 programmes.  
■ Economy wash.  
■ Triple filter.  
Model D7436. Was £399.99. In-store Price £279.99. **£269.99**

Frankfurt massacre: Defence blames Russian mafia hitmen for killings at brothel for the rich

## Trial spotlights vice gang wars

IMRE KARACS  
Bonn

High-fliers from the world of finance and prominent characters from Frankfurt's low life were brought together yesterday for the trial of Germany's most brutal killings in recent history.

In the dock at Frankfurt's central court stood an ethnic German couple from eastern Europe, accused of strangling the owner of the most exclusive brothel in town along with his wife and four prostitutes. The six victims were forced to lie face down and then garrotted with electric wire on 16 August 1994.

Among the 70 witnesses to appear are the clients' business folk who had no trouble charging the fees of 350 marks (£160) an hour to their company expense accounts. And watching attentively from the fringes are the shadowy Russian and Ukrainian mafias battling for a piece of the action in Germany's lucrative sex market.

It is a trial where some of the victims appear more sinister than the perpetrators. The brothel, a stuccoed villa a short taxi ride from Frankfurt's business district, was owned by Gabor and Ingrid Bartos, Hungarians with a taste for the

good life and friends in high places. Though Bartos only employed four prostitutes, he made enough money to own a private jet, which he used to ferry Russian women to Germany. He changed his employees frequently. The four east European prostitutes murdered that night had been in the country only for a few days.

Though German detectives uncovered nothing when they retraced Bartos's steps to Budapest, suspicion lingers that he imported more than his fair share of women, provoking the wrath of big crime syndicates from the anarchic lands of the former Soviet Union. That is certainly the assertion of the main accused, Eugen Berwald, a 25-year-old immigrant from Moldova, who claims his only role in the crime was to let a Russian hit squad into the brothel on the night of the massacre.

This yarn was stretched to the limit of credibility when the defence yesterday called a witness caught up in a government sting against plutonium smuggling. The implication is that Bartos earned his fortune in this business, but fell out in the end with his Russian partners. The police have a different

story. Though they have been unable to exclude the link to organised crime, the prosecutors say Berwald did all the killings, helped by his wife, Sofia, who worked at the brothel. According to this scenario, the motive for the crime was greed, and the robbery went horribly wrong when the owner, Bartos, was accidentally killed in the struggle as Berwald tried to tie him up. In a fit of panic, Berwald is then alleged to have murdered everybody else staying in the villa.

The trial is set to run for three months, but it is unlikely that the whole truth will emerge.

The case has already highlighted, however, the growing strength of east European crime gangs.

Out of some 200,000 licensed prostitutes, more than a quarter come, courtesy of the various syndicates, from eastern Europe. Some 15,000 to 20,000 of these are lured to Germany with promises of respectable jobs, only to find themselves in brothels against their will.



Accused: Eugen Berwald in court charged with killing a brothel owner, his wife and four prostitutes. Berwald's wife, Sofia, faces robbery charges. Photograph: AFP

## Café rumours raise bomber from the dead

PATRICK COCKBURN  
and STEPHANIE NOLEN  
Jerusalem

Is Yahya Ayyash, the Palestinian bomb-maker thought to have been killed three weeks ago by a booby-trapped mobile phone, alive and well and living in Gaza, Egypt or Sudan? Many Palestinians believe he is. In the coffee shops of the West Bank they talk as much about how he may have survived assassination as they do about the results of the Palestinian general election.

"He knew they were coming," said Sami Rashe, an accountant, sitting in a café in Ramallah, just north of Jerusalem. "He got a look-alike to stay in the house where he was hiding — and he got away." The body buried in the Martyrs' Cemetery in Gaza was not his, he added.

The story seemed to gather a little substance last week when the Jordanian newspaper *Al-Bilad* quoted an unidentified official of Hamas, the Islamic organisation to which Ayyash belonged, as saying the bomb-maker had known that an Israeli attack was imminent. A Hamas colleague, eager for martyrdom, took the fatal phone call. This enabled Ayyash to evade his Israeli pursuers again and escape out of the back door.

It is not surprising that Palestinians want to believe that Ayyash is still alive. The expertise required to send a suicide bomber to blow up a civilian bus is not very great, but Palestini-

ans liked the idea that here was a Palestinian the Israelis feared. "They have the atomic bomb and we have Ayyash," said one.

Some Hamas leaders want to quash the rumours. At a memorial rally for Ayyash in Gaza, their spokesman, Mahmoud Zahhar, made a special reference to the stories of the bomber being alive: "Despite what you hear, I saw him myself and he was dead."

But Mr Rashe in Ramallah said: "Sure, they saw somebody who was dead. But if the bomb blew his head apart, how can they know it was Yahya?"

There is another, more substantial reason why Palestinians think there was something peculiar about the assassination. For a man who must have known he was No 1 target for Israel's Shin Bet security agency, he took very few precautions and had been staying in the same house in Beit Lahya refugee camp for months. If the legend of Ayyash's ability to avoid detection was true, he must have known the Israelis would find him. Could he, therefore, have used the assassination plot to escape Israeli retribution by pretending it had succeeded?

A more likely explanation is that Ayyash's reputation as "the Engineer," first promoted by the Israeli media and then picked up by the Palestinians, was inflated, but in West Bank coffee shops this theory will find few takers.

## Peking unveils HK 'shadow government'

TERESA POOLE  
Peking

With all the pomp and ceremony of a state occasion, President Jiang Zemin yesterday presided over a ceremony in the Great Hall of the People to establish officially the Peking-appointed Preparatory Committee, which will determine how Hong Kong will be governed after 30 June 1997.

Nationalism was the theme of the gathering, broadcast live and billed by Peking as marking the start of the "final stage" of the transfer of Hong Kong's sovereignty to China, now 17 months away. "The most important thing is to unite all patriots in Hong Kong," Mr Jiang said. "Under the flag of loving the motherland and loving Hong Kong, the Preparatory Committee can unite all forces that can be united."

The 150 committee members will in theory make some of the key decisions affecting Hong Kong's future, though it remains to be seen how much its Hong Kong members can influence the panel's Peking bosses. Ninety-four members come from Hong Kong, the rest from the mainland. Missing from the body, when it was announced last year, were any members of the Democratic Party, the most popular political party in Hong Kong.

The Preparatory Committee is to appoint a 400-strong Selection Committee, which will choose a "chief executive", the most important post in Hong Kong when it becomes a so-called Special Administrative Region of China next year.

Given Peking's unilateral decision to disband Hong Kong's existing Legislative Council, the committee also will decide how to set up an interim appointed legislature to take over the moment sovereignty reverts to the mainland. It will also plan China's side of the handover ceremony and other celebrations.

The committee will have its headquarters in Peking, but



Jiang: Beating nationalist drum over Hong Kong

there will be a secretariat in Hong Kong to liaise with the Hong Kong government. Still unclear is the extent to which the existence of the Preparatory Committee will undermine the authority of the Hong Kong government, and divide loyalties of the colony's civil servants if it becomes a *de facto* "shadow" government. For Mr Jiang, the successful return of Hong Kong is a key element in boosting his image as the "core" of the new leadership, as China awaits the death of Deng Xiaoping, the ailing patriarch.

## Okinawa rocked by new rape case

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
Tokyo

The US forces have confirmed that another serviceman on the island of Okinawa has been charged with raping a girl, three days before the reopening of a gang-rape trial that has undermined the Japanese-US military relationship.

Senior Airman Anthony Williams, 24, has been charged under US military law with rape and indecent acts involving an under-age girl and with supplying alcohol to minors. The attack took place after a party last month at Kadena air base. The victim is American, the 14-year-old daughter of another airman at the base.

On Monday a court in Naha, Okinawa's capital, will hear closing arguments in the trial of three servicemen charged with raping a 12-year-old Japanese in September. The case caused uproar and prompted calls for the US presence on the island to be cut. In November the Defense Secretary, William Perry, visited Tokyo to try to calm the waters. The issue will head the

agenda when President Bill Clinton meets Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Prime Minister, in April. A joint group is to discuss "consolidation" and possible "relocation" of some facilities but both sides say overall troop levels are not up for negotiation.

Yesterday's announcement underlines the danger that, just as the US is mending fences over the September rape, another case will reinforce calls for troop cuts. It is the third reported rape since September but the first in which charges have been brought. Women's groups in Japan say many cases never get to court, because of shame on the part of the Japanese victim or cover-ups by the military.

The *Stars and Stripes* military newspaper gave the outlines of last month's attack. The mother of the girl was quoted as saying officers, including her husband's commanding officer, had discouraged the family from publicising the case. "He said this could blow up bigger than the O J Simpson case and that they'd never be able to get an impartial jury."

**SAVE UP TO £160**

**EXTRA SAVINGS ON HOTPOINT**

**BUY NOW PAY UP TO 1997**

on a range of Autowashers, Washer Dryers, Dishwashers and Fridge Freezers

**HEATERS FROM ONLY £19.99**

WIDE CHOICE IN STOCK READY TO TAKE HOME TODAY

GLEN Electric Fire Model 222. Curry's price £19.99. Was £29.99.

PHILIPS Fan Heater Model H2224. Curry's price £24.99. Was £29.99.

GLEN Oil fired Radiator Model 216. Curry's price £39.99. Was £49.99.

GLEN Electric Fire Model 222. Curry's price £59.99. Was £69.99.

**PREMIER SERVICE**

OVER 300 PRODUCTS INCLUDING DOMESTIC APPLIANCES, TV, VIDEO AND Hi-Fi

AVAILABLE WITH 2 DAY DELIVERY GUARANTEE

**EXCLUSIVES**

For extra value, look no more for the many superb models and offers exclusive to Curry's.

**TAKE IT HOME NOW**

Most items are in stock ready to take away or deliver.

We're so happy to carry your purchase to your car.

**2 DAY DELIVERY MONDAY TO FRIDAY**

\*You can choose Add or Pay for a small extra charge. Ask for details of our professional installation service. (\*Subject to availability.)

**SAME DAY IN-HOME SERVICE**

For most large items from Curry's for PCU if you have a problem. Open Monday to Friday and we will be with you within 24 hours.

**DI-STORE REPAIR SERVICE**

Some repairs wherever possible, 7 days a week. All repairs guaranteed 3 months.

**EASY WAYS TO PAY**

Curry's Premier Advantage Account offers instant Credit at APR 27.9% (variable by direct debit, 5% deposit, subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over, UK or Ireland).

**UP TO 7 YEARS COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE**

Covers theft, accidental damage, new for old replacement, even personal insurance (ask in store for full details).

**LOWEST PRICES GUARANTEED**

We'll refund the difference on the spot, if you find the same item and price, cheaper locally. Come back to us within 7 days of purchase with details. The product must be new, complete and available immediately. Excludes mail order.

**SAVE UP TO £150 ON FRIDGE FREEZERS**

**CANDY**

9.8 cu.ft. Fridge Freezer

5.7 cu.ft. fridge, 4.1 cu.ft. freezer.

Auto defrost.

Tiltable fridge shelves.

Model CM28/12G. Was £399.99.

**BUY NOW PAY JANUARY '97 SALE PRICE**

**£299.99**

**FRIDGES FROM UNDER £100**

**ONYX**

5.4 CU.FT. FRIDGE Model 1020. In-store Price £129.99.

**BEKO**

5.1 CU.FT. FRIDGE CFC free Model 9176.

**FRIGIDAIRE**

5.4 CU.FT. LARGER FRIDGE Model F1204. Was £199.99. In-store Price £149.99.

**ELECTROLUX**

4.3 CU.FT. LARGER FRIDGE Model 8124MT. Was £249.99. Was £169.99.

**HOTPOINT**

4.9 CU.FT. FIRST EDITION LARGER FRIDGE Automatic defrost. Model R200. Was £189.99. In-store Price £179.99.

**ZANUSSI**

5.6 CU.FT. LARGER FRIDGE Model F1204. Was £299.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY '96

**LEC**

4.0 cu.ft. Fridge

CFC free.

Large salad crisper.

Reversible door.

Adjustable thermostat.

Model R105. Was £199.99.

**SALE PRICE**

**£129.99**

**FREEZERS FROM UNDER £100**

**NOVA SCOTIA**

5.8 CU.FT. Chest Freezer

CFC free.

Adjustable thermostat.

Model R220. Was £149.99.

**BEKO**

4.1 CU.FT. UPRIGHT FREEZER Fast freeze section. Model R220. Was £149.99.

**CANDY**

4.1 CU.FT. UPRIGHT FREEZER Model CV120G. Price including Trade-In £239.99.

**HOTPOINT**

3.5 CU.FT. FIRST EDITION UPRIGHT FREEZER Temperature warning light. Model R200P.

**ZANUSSI**

4.3 CU.FT. UPRIGHT FREEZER Model Z120. Was £299.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY '96

**SALE PRICE**

**£99.99**

**£139.99**

**£179.99**

**£199.99**

**£249.99**

**NOVA SCOTIA**

4.8 CU.FT. FRIDGE FREEZER Model F193. Was £299.99.

**HOTPOINT**

8.2 CU.FT. FIRST EDITION FRIDGE FREEZER Model R200P. Was £499.99. Was £239.99. In-store Price £249.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY '96.

**LEC**

1.3 CU.FT. FRIDGE FREEZER Model 1016. Was £249.99. Was £209.99.

**ELECTROLUX**

8.7 CU.FT. FRIDGE FREEZER Model E2848. Was £449.99. BUY NOW PAY JANUARY '97

**CANDY**

10.1 CU.FT. FIRST EDITION FRIDGE FREEZER Model CM29/13. Price including Trade-In £449.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY '96

**CREDA**

11.2 CU.FT. FIRST EDITION FRIDGE FREEZER Model S679. Was £549.99. BUY NOW PAY JULY '96

**Currys VOUCHER SPECIALS**

One voucher per purchase. Not for use with other offers. Offer ends Monday 29th January 1996. Branch use only. Discount using Code 4 (Head Office offer).

**BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL RETAILER**

**ALL THIS ONLY AT Currys**

**EXAMPLE OF BUY NOW PAY LATER ON SELECTED PRODUCTS**

Pay 10% deposit and remaining instalments over 12 months. Then either settle the balance by your first payment due (instalment) or repay the balance by instalments by weekly payments of £5.00 per week. (Total credit price £200.00, APR 27.9% (variable) by direct debit. Offer applies when you apply for a Curry's Premier Advantage Card. Not available to cash purchasers. Subject to status. Applicants must be 18 or over, UK or Ireland.)

**HOW YOU CAN ORDER BY PHONE**

DELIVERY CHARGES FROM £15.00 PER ORDER. We will deliver within 7 working days. Please ask for full delivery and installation service details at time of purchase.

**STORES ARE OPEN**

Sun-7pm Monday-Friday Sun-5.30pm Saturday

**DELIVERY CHARGES FROM £15.00 PER ORDER**

We will deliver within 7 working days. Please ask for full delivery and installation service details at time of purchase.

**Credda**

SAVE UP TO £150

**Candy**

SAVE UP TO £120

**Currys**

SAVE UP TO £150

**Currys**

SAVE UP TO £150



## obituaries / gazette

Sir John  
Badenoch

John Badenoch was among the best of generalists, with a superb opinion across the whole field of medicine.

The son of a family doctor, he carried the ideals of general practice into his consultant work. Never neglecting clinical skills and the science of medicine, he brought to his patients a blend of family doctor wisdom and comfort, combined when necessary with the gravitas of an eminent consultant physician. He was by speciality a gastroenterologist, but his practice was much wider than that.

These qualities, apparently effortless, were underpinned by long hours of work with his patients and their families as well as at his desk. Equally at home with sick car workers from Cowley as with important personages in Oxford (and they with him), he had a natural talent for discovering covert consequences of an illness and in dealing with them. It was astonishing to his colleagues that he could combine all this with so much advisory and committee work at which he also excelled. Locally in Oxford, for the government departments, for the Royal College of Physicians and other medical schools. He was in demand as an examiner in medical trials and a key figure in the planning of new

Witt's department as a Research Fellow.

There he joined Dr Sheila Callender in studying the problems of malabsorption from the gut. He made particular use of radio-isotopes in this work, which formed the basis of his Goulstonian lecture to the Royal College of Physicians in 1960. He could have continued a fine career in academic medicine but was drawn instead to clinical work. His opinion became widely sought and this led to a move from the academic unit to an NHS consultancy in 1966. Before that he had made his mark as a teacher in the young clinical school as its Director of Studies between 1954 and 1965.

In the late 1960s and 1970s the demands on his time as a clinician were supplemented by an almost overwhelming load of committee work, on the Board of Governors of the United Oxford Hospitals, later the Area Health Authority, and most importantly on the planning committee of the New John Radcliffe Hospital.

His clinical practice remained a huge commitment in which his devoted patients were never allowed to be aware of the pressures under which he worked. Despite long hours, he always found time for family, for interests in photography and ornithology and for a pre-work ward round of the contents of his greenhouse usually beginning at 6am or earlier.

There were important contributions to the university too at this time. He became a Fellow of Merton College in 1965, its Subwarden in 1976-78 and Emeritus Fellow in 1987. He was Pro-Practor of the university in 1967-68, when his son James took his BA in law.

After his retirement in 1985 the pace hardly slackened. Badenoch served on the General Medical Council in the 1980s, as an urban chairman of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, of the committee of inquiry on the outbreak of Legionnaires' Disease in Stoke-on-Trent and of the Committee of the Department of Environment concerning contamination of water supplies by cryptosporidiosis. Generations of overseas doctors had reason to thank him for his care of their postgraduate teaching when he was the Hans Sloane Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

John Badenoch's family origins were in Badenoch country around the upper strata of the Spey and in Banffshire. He showed the characteristics of the best of the north-east Scot, thorough, infinitely patient, compassionate, wise and with a great human touch. He was at his happiest in the family home at Portsoy in Banffshire, where he is to be buried.

J. G. G. Ledingham

**John Badenoch, physician: born 8 March 1920; Director, Clinical Studies, Oxford University 1984-85; Consultant Physician, Oxfordshire Health Authority 1986-88; University Lecturer in Medicine, Oxford University 1988-89; Emeritus Fellow, Merton College, Oxford 1987; married 1944, Anne Forster (two sons, two daughters); died 16 January 1996.**



Badenoch: human touch

clinical schools in Cambridge and as far afield as Sultan Qaboos University in Oman. All this combined with college and university responsibilities would have exhausted a lesser man. If such a load of labour and age did not wither him, he did sometimes look as though it had.

Badenoch came up to Oriel College, Oxford, in 1938 and attended the wartime Clinical School at the Radcliffe Infirmary. There he was awarded a prestigious Rockefeller Student Fellowship which took him to Cornell Medical School in New York in 1941. His return took some three months, his ship repeatedly setting out and returning, with one episode of rescue from the icy Atlantic. He reappeared in Oxford with a hint of an American cadence in his speech to become Professor Leslie Witt's house physician in the Nuffield Department of Medicine in 1943 and to marry Anne Forster a year later.

Military service then separated them and took him as medical officer of the West African Rifles to Nigeria and the Gold Coast (Ghana) before his return to Sevenoaks in command of the military hospital there. After he was demobilised in 1948, his father's death led to a short period in the family practice at Leyton in London until he returned in 1949 to



'Marvellous little feet': Rowe as the doll to Robert Quinault's Harlequin in *La Poupée d'Arlequin*

## Iris Rowe

Iris Rowe achieved youthful fame as both a classical and an acrobatic dancer. Together with Robert Quinault, she toured widely in Europe and America. Their most popular creation, *La Poupée d'Arlequin*, a charming dance interlude in which Harlequin, danced by Quinault, performs an acrobatic sketch with his doll (Iris Rowe), received acclaim on both sides of the Atlantic.

Rowe's career started under the British dance teacher Margaret Morris, who described her as "one of my first and best pupils". By the age of 12 Iris Rowe was taking leading roles in Morris's Children's Seasons in London, and touring to Liverpool and Manchester. In 1915, at the age of 14, she played Puck in Ben Greet's production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Old Vic, and was entrusted by Morris with sole responsibility for the arrangement of the dances.

After the Second World War she joined C.B. Cochran, dancing in his revues at the London Palladium. It was here, in the revue of 1920, *London, Paris and New York*, that she met Robert Quinault, who was making his debut in England, and to whose Harlequin she danced Col-

umbine. The following year saw her only venture into film, when she played the leading lady in a British Screencraft Production directed by C.C. Calvert, entitled *Roses in the Dust*. She then rejoined Quinault, forming the partnership for which she was perhaps best known. She spent two years in America as leading dancer in the Ziegfeld Follies, but remained comparatively unknown in England. In 1930 she returned to England, posing to illustrate a series of articles on technique by Tamara Karsavina in the *Dancing Times*, and in another Cochran revue, under-studying the Russian dancer Alice Nikitina.

The critic Arnold Haskell, in an article in the *Dancing Times*, considered that she eclipsed her Russian rival in technique, artistry and charm. "Here is an artist," he wrote, "who so far has had far less opportunity than she deserves... an English dancer, famous on the Continent, whose talent is only guessed at in England."

He went on to quote the verdict of the Russian critic André Levinson, who was never lavish in his praise: "She will be a big star - marvellous little feet, remarkably well placed, a magnificent impetus in all gyratory movements, steel muscles, childish grace and suppleness. Here then are rare things united in one small person."

This promise seems never to have been realised in full. Her career continued for a few more years, with appearances with such names as Serge Lifar, Anton Dolin and Stanislas Idznowsky, after which she seems to have lost touch with the world of dance completely and permanently.

Rowe was also, from early youth, an accomplished artist, with a charming and original style. At the age of 10 she was awarded a Royal Drawing Society prize, and a number of her drawings were published in magazines and annuals in her early teens, with the encouragement of the publisher J.M. Dent. Later she designed costumes and illustrations for her dances and worked briefly for an art agency after leaving the theatre.

After her second marriage in 1939 she devoted herself to her family and to her garden, rarely mentioning her past.

Felicity Wild

**Iris Caroline Rowe, dancer and artist: born London 10 October 1900; twice married (one daughter); died 6 January 1996.**

## Peter Stadlen

Bayan Northcott [obituaries, 23 January] does not mention Peter Stadlen's enforced wartime sojourn in Australia, writes Ronald Stent.

Like thousands of other German and Austrian refugees, Stadlen was interned in the summer of 1940 and shipped under atrocious conditions to Australia. The Home Office, reacting to an application signed by Thomas Mann, Yehudi Menuhin and Eleanor Roosevelt, amongst others, had actually ordered his release, but, by the time it did so,

Stadlen was already on the high seas.

On board ship he was a constant source of cheer to his fellow prisoners, encouraging them to sing. Among the few possessions he managed to bring was a piano transcript of Handel's *Israel in Egypt*. One internee had brought his violin, and on precious lavatory paper Stadlen transcribed the score for the violin and voices.

Once the internees were settled in the New South Wales bush, Stadlen formed a choir of 75 male voices and arranged a concert performance of Handel's work in front of the camp officers and local dignitaries. Later on there were performances of Mozart's C Major Mass, of a Palestinian Mass and of the Prisoner Chorus of *Fidelio*.

It took over a year before Stadlen was returned to England. When he finally disembarked at Liverpool, he heard on the tannoy that Dr Vaughan Williams wanted him to get in touch urgently. He told me some years ago that this pleased him greatly.

Thomas A. Edison, 1879: television was first demonstrated publicly by John Logie Baird, 1926: a cassette began in Vietnam, 1973. Today is the Feast Day of St Angela Merici, St Julian of Le Mans, St Marius or May and St Vitalian, pope.

**TOMORROW:** Births: Charles George Gordon, general and hero of Khartoum, 1833; Colette (Gabrielle Sidonie Colette) author, 1873; Arthur Rubinstein, pianist, 1889; Paul Jackson Pollock, abstract artist, 1912. Deaths: Shakespeare, English poet, 1564; King Henry VIII, 1547; Sir Francis Drake, sailor, at sea 1596; Sir Thomas Bodley, founder of the Bodleian Library, 1613; William Butler Yeats, poet and playwright, 1939; Herbert Ernest Bates, novelist, 1974. On this day the Diet of Worms began, 1521; the *Independent on Sunday* was first published, 1990. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of St Amadous of Lausanne, St Paulinus of Aquileia, St Peter Nolasco, St Peter Thomas and St Thomas Aquinas.

## Luncheons

**Miss Betty Boothroyd MP** Speaker of the House of Commons, was guest of honour and speaker at the annual luncheon of the Newspaper Conference held yesterday evening at the London Hilton, London W1. Mr John Hipswood, Chairman of the Conference, presided.

## Dinners

**Honourable Artillery Company** Major D.P. Gordon, Squadron Commander, Signal Squadron, Honourable Artillery Company, presided at the Annual Dinner held yesterday evening in the Long Room at Arbury House, London EC1. Lt Gen S. Cowan was the principal guest. Lieutenant J.A. Bowman also spoke.

## Edward Thomas



Thomas: decryption

Edward Thomas worked for British intelligence in different capacities but with equal distinction throughout his life, during the Second World War as a naval intelligence officer and at Bletchley Park, afterwards at the Joint Intelligence Bureau, and latterly on the official history of British intelligence in the Second World War.

At Bletchley in 1942 to 1943, he joined the naval component of the 24-hour watch which, working in shifts, translated and annotated German and Italian signals from the Western Desert and the Mediterranean and transmitted them to the Admiralty and to the naval, army and air commands in the Middle East. This service was among Bletchley's most important contributions to the Allied war effort; it was directly instrumental in first delaying and then defeating Rommel in the desert, and was valuable, if less decisive, during the Tunisian campaign.

Thomas was born in 1918, and educated at Portsmouth and Guildford Grammar Schools and then, from 1937 to 1940, at King's College London. In 1940, having joined the RNVR, he was posted as a naval intelligence officer to Iceland, where his duties included the management of the station that took direction-finding bearings on the radio transmissions of German U-boats. In February 1942 he was transferred to Bletchley Park, which was then experiencing a great surge in the its decryptations.

At the end of the war in Africa, in May 1943, Thomas was posted as intelligence officer and adviser on signals intelligence to the Commander-in-Chief Home Fleet. In this capacity his knowledge of the

German navy's signal routines and of Bletchley's cryptanalytical procedures was called upon during many operations off the Norwegian coast and on the Arctic convoy routes, and not least during the operation in which the Home Fleet destroyed the battle cruiser *Scharnhorst* in December 1943. He once said that he would never forget the terrible sight of the *Scharnhorst* glowing red-hot throughout, from stern to stern, in the Arctic darkness in the minutes before she sank. It was after this engagement that, on the recommendation of the Commander-in-Chief, Admiral Sir Bruce Fraser, he was awarded his DSC.

In 1946 Thomas joined the Joint Intelligence Bureau, which was then replacing the wartime Joint Intelligence Committee as the agency for Central Intelligence analysis. He served in this until 1970, when he took early retirement to pursue his other interests. These were many and varied. Effective and enthusiastic in all he did, he was an expert gardener - so expert that on a visit to Malaysia, he discovered the plant named after him, *Fifistigma Thomasii* - and a fine musician, the life and soul of more than one local orchestra. The nephew of the poet Edward Thomas, he was an attentive guardian of the memory of his uncle's life and works as co-President of the Edward Thomas Society. From time to time he translated a German book for British publishers.

Above all, however, he loved his family and cherished his friends; and his friends were legion for, just as he did not accept fools gladly, he excelled in keeping old friendships and making new ones.

Despite the call of these oth-

er interests, his early retirement did not succeed in extricating him from the world of intelligence. In 1971 he became a founder member of the team that was being appointed to produce the official history, *British Intelligence in the Second World War*, a project with which he stayed till the publication of the fourth and penultimate volume in 1988. His dedication to this work over so many years was indispensable to its progress; and as the volumes he helped to produce were without precedent and without parallel, in that no other government has sanctioned so full and frank an account of its most secret activities, they form a fitting memorial to his many talents.

He married in 1964 Ruth Dyson, till recently Professor of Harpichord at the Royal College of Music. She survives him together with his son and daughter from an earlier marriage.

Harry Hinsley

**Edward Eastway Thomas, intelligence officer: born 1918; DSC 1943; twice married (one son, one daughter); died Dorking, Surrey 22 January 1996.**

## George Sinclair-Stevenson

George Sinclair-Stevenson was once the doyen of the lawyers of Hong Kong.

The personification of the English gentleman, he was elegantly mannered, discreet, and dressed to match. He was of a family which helped establish the good name of Britain in the world and in its third generation to be born abroad. He inherited from an Argentinian great-uncle the title of Baron of Belgrano but he never used it. He was brought up and educated in New Jersey. But in 1924 Cheltenham College became his Alma Mater, then Peterhouse, Cambridge, where he graduated in Modern Languages and Law. He qualified as a lawyer in 1926.

A true patriot, he joined the Supplementary Reserve in 1938 and was gazetted as an officer into the Coldstream Guards. Six foot six inches tall, handsome and debonair, he looked the part. A year later he was living it in full measure. A gifted linguist, he acted as a liaison officer with Allied forces in North Africa, Belgium and Germany.

He returned to law in 1946 but, after three years, was attracted to Macmillan's publishers, and appointed head of their Amsterdam office. In 1951 he forsook publishing for general trading, to become vice-president of the house of Bunge, in Tokyo. When he accepted a three-year contract with a small firm of solicitors in Hong Kong, the arrangement proved so satisfactory that he bought out the firm and retired

it Stevenson. Low. From then until his retirement in 1991, he was his senior partner, legal adviser to the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, and the holder of a number of directorships and consultancies.

A gregarious and clubbable man, George Sinclair-Stevenson was President of the Law Society of Hong Kong and of the Hong Kong Society of No-nonsense, a member of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce and of the Supreme Court Rules Committee. He was also twice President of the Hong Kong YMCA and an active member of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, part-owning several horses.

Sinclair-Stevenson had a pronounced, albeit discreet, love of life's pleasures. He kept a gourmet's cellar and was a founder member of Hong Kong's Tuesday Club, a gathering of the community's high-fliers. He loved women, too, and

was married four times; first in 1938 to his compatriot Gloria Gordon. Their only child, the publisher Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson, inherits the title of Baron. His second wife was Belgian, Lydia Eggerick, who died in 1966. He married Marie Pui-Lai Young, a Chinese, a marriage that lasted for 25 years. His fourth wife was Swiss, Dyanne, and attractive, Sonja Lindblad was the vice-president of the Lindblad Travel shipping line. But he had become pessimistic about Hong Kong. In a valedictory speech he said, "I have seen the better years of Hong Kong. I do not really want to watch the end of them all."

He and Sonja Lindblad retired to the Mediterranean island of Gozo, Malta. There, they married and magnificently reconditioned an old farmhouse to which friends from all over the world came to visit them. Both continued to be consulted and, right up until his death, Hong Kong people continued to seek the opinion of this scholarly and silken man with the common touch.

Avril Mollison

**George Egbert Sinclair-Stevenson, lawyer: born Langford, New Jersey 25 December 1911; MBE 1946; senior partner, Stevenson, Low 1951-91; married 1938 Gloria Gordon (one son; marriage dissolved 1947); 1948 Lydia Eggerick (died 1965); 1966 Marie Pui-Lai Young (marriage dissolved 1992); 1992 Sonja Lindblad, died Gozo, Malta 14 January 1996.**



Sinclair-Stevenson: silken

## Public policy versus Christian principles

faith & reason

Andrew Brown considers the curious gap between the religious teachings that other people so obviously need, and those which we are prepared to tolerate ourselves.

One definition of a moral leader is one whom people are unwilling to follow. In all the discussions about hypocrisy and education which have dominated this week, no one seems to have made the link between Philip Lawrence, the headmaster killed outside his school, and Little Joe Dromey, Harriet Harman's son.

Philip Lawrence has been almost canonised in death, and quite deservedly. He seems to have been a very good teacher and a much-loved man. His death, stabbed to death outside his school while defending pupils from a gang of bullies, was a genuinely inspiring tragedy. There can hardly have been a parent in Britain who did not wish that their own children were looked after by such a man. This reflection, however, will have been followed almost instantaneously by another: that if I have any choice in the matter, my children are not going to attend a school where it is necessary for the headmaster to lay down his life to defend them from other children, however infrequently this necessity may arise.

Such a decision might disappoint Cardinal Hume. He has fought bitter battles with Catholic parents in London about retaining the comprehensive character of Catholic secondary schooling. Some of these may be due to the conviction, natural to any former headmaster, that the last people who should have anything to do with education policy are parents; more, I suspect, derive from a belief in community. If Christianity is a universal religion, then Christian schools, like families, should teach people to live together who would not if they had any choice in the matter share the same continent, let alone the same classroom.

Only last week, Bishop David Konstant of Leeds told a conference of Catholic independent schools that if anyone has any doubts about the value of education for people who are not members, it follows that public policy cannot be conducted by wholly Christian principles, since the political world is composed of institutions which do exist for the benefit of their members, and shrivel if they forget this.

This is not a startling new conclusion. It belongs in that wide list of things that the English churches now believe without anyone else noticing that they believe them. Yet the ironies to which it gives rise are only likely to multiply as the next election approaches. On education, on immigration, and on taxation the mainstream churches turn out to be as close to Arthur Scargill as they are to any of the mainstream parties. And getting close to Arthur is not what most people would understand as following the Messiah. There must be something extremely strange and incoherent about our notion of community when this can happen, even if it happens largely unnoticed.

Joe Dromey's elder brother attends a Catholic school in the archdiocese of Westminster, so Ms Harman's decision must be seen as a slight on Catholic education policy as well as on that of old Labour. Like the rest of us middle-class types, she believes that even if society depends on the labour of heroes like Philip Lawrence, it is better for our own children to rely on the efforts of more average teachers.

That the Catholic Church finds itself to the left of new Labour in this matter is yet another illustration of the extraordinary divide between what the churches actually believe and practice, and what public opinion believes of them. The image of Philip Lawrence after his death was of a staunch defender of traditional values

**Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS** (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at 50p a line (VAT extra). **OTHER** Gazette announcements (notices, funerals, forthcoming marriages, marriages) must be submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra). They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

## Lectures

**TODAY** National Gallery: Rachel Barnes, "Looking Backwards (iv): Van Gogh, *An Autumn Garden*", 12pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Frances Mulker, "17th and 18th-century Fashionable Dress", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Ready-Made Art", 1pm. National Portrait Gallery: Ann Kodicek, "Diaghilev in London", 3pm.

## TOMORROW

Tate Gallery: Laurence Bradbury, "Painters' Points of View", 2.30pm. National Portrait Gallery: Mary Kelly, "The Trial and Execution of King Charles I", 3pm.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Prince of Wales, Vice-President of the National Trust, tomorrow joins Mrs Rosemary Brown, visiting a lecture about the medieval at Winchester, and is of the National Trust in the Peak District, and attends a reception at the Boston Opera House, Boston, Derbyshire.

## Changing of the Guard

**TODAY:** The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. **TOMORROW:** The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am. **11.30am:** band provided by the Welsh Guards.

## Birthdays

**TODAY:** Mr Mohamed Al-Fayed, chairman of Harrods Holdings, 63; Professor Gillian Beer, President of Clare Hall, Cambridge, 61; Mr Nicholas Bomford, Headmaster, Harrow, 57; Sir Wilfrid Boume QC, former Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 74; Dr Robert Burdfield, former editor of the *Oxford English Dictionary Supplement*, 72; Mr John Bury, theatre, opera and film designer, 71; Mr Michael Collins, clarinetist, 34; Sir Kenneth Cordell, former chairman, STC, 72; Mrs Louise Corrigan, Principal, John Naisbitt Peace prize winner, 52; Mr Michael Craig, actor and playwright, 67; Baroness Cumberlege, Under-Secretary, Department of Health, 53; Lord Dunboyne, former circuit judge, 79; Sir John Eccles, physical ogist, 93; Air Commodore the Hon Timothy Ewerth, Captain of the Queen's Flight, 58; The Right Rev Henry Halsey, former Bishop of Carlisle, 77; Brigadier Rita Hennessy, former matron-in-chief, QARANC, 63; Mr John Hopkins, playwright, 63; Sir Peter Jackson QC, former Permanent Secretary, Lord Chancellor's Office, 62; Mr Alan Milburn MP, 38; Miss Nina Milkins, concert pianist, 77; Baroness Rawlings, former MP, 57; Mr Mordecai Richler, novelist and playwright, 65; Lord Rita, actor and former secretary-general of Menaparc, 72; Mr Roger Sims MP, 66; Mr Neville Trotter MP, 64; Sir William van Straubenzee, former MP, 72; Lord Vinson, inventor, and Chairman, Institute of Economic Affairs, 65.

**TOMORROW:** Mr Alan Alda, actor, 60; Mr Bobby Ball, comedian, 52; Mr Michael Barrymore, dancer, 48; Mr Acker Bilk, jazz clarinetist, 66; Mr James Callaghan MP, 69; Miss Enid Castle, Principal, Chestnut Ladies' College, 60; Sir Oliver Chesterton, chartered surveyor, 83; Mr James Cram MP, 52; Mr John Edmunds, general secretary, GMB, 52;

Mr Michael Falcon, former chairman, Norwich Union Insurance, 68; Mr Glyn Ford MP, 46; Sir Anthony James, permanent secretary, affairs consultant, 69; Miss Frances Gurnley, television and radio producer and broadcaster, 41; Mr John Hughes, former Principal of Ruskin College, Oxford, 69; Mr Bill Jordan, president, AEBU, 60; Sir Timothy Kison, chairman, Providence Trust plc, and former MP, 65; Professor David Lodge, author, 61; Mr Alfred Marks, actor and comedian, 75; The Rev David Morris, MEP, 66; Mr Claes Oldenburg, pop artist, 67; Mr Gordon Prentice MP, 45; Mr Nick Reynolds MP, 51; Mr Ronnie Scott, jazz musician, 69; Maj-Gen Martin Simatt, former senior executive and secretary, Kennel Club, 68; Sir Trevor Skeet MP, 78; Mr Ian Sloane, ambassador to Mongolia, 58; Professor John Taverner, composer, 52; Mr David Thompson, former chairman, Rank Xerox UK, 64; Sir Michael Weir, former diplomat, 71; The Rev Barrington White, former Principal, Regent's Park College, Oxford, 62; The Right Rev James Whyte, former moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 76; Lord Windlesham, Principal, Brasenose College, Oxford, 64; Robert Wyatt, rock musician, 51.

## Anniversaries

**TODAY:** Births: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer, 1756; Samuel Palmer, landscape painter, 1805; Lewis Carroll (Charles Lutwidge Dodgson), author, 1832; Jerome David Kern, composer, 1885; Ilya Grigoryevich Ehrenburg, poet and novelist, 1891. Deaths: Giuseppe Fortunato Francesco Verdi, composer, 1901; Giovanni Verga, novelist and playwright, 1922; Dame Gwen Ffrangcon-Davies, actress, 1993. On this day the independence of Greece was proclaimed, 1822; a patent for the electric lamp was taken out by

# The barbarian

Being the illuminating tale of how 'Graham' stole 'Fifi' from under her master's nose. By **Mathew Horsman and David Hellier**

## Eyeing the prize

Two years is a long time to stalk your prey. In the City's infamously short-term view, two years is a lifetime, and the risks mount with every passing week. Too many people get to know your plans. The adversary can build its fortifications, and the target's share price starts moving up, out of reach of a hostile bid.

It is amazing that Granada could target Forte for so long without anybody outside the inner circle knowing. But it happened: the secret was kept, at least until the few weeks before Granada finally pounced on 22 November.

Gerry Robinson, Granada's chief executive, determined a code name early in the game. From now on, Forte would be known as "Fifi," a suitably derogatory moniker that painted the luxury hotels company as fey, flitish and profligate. Granada would be "Graham", after Graham Parrott, the company's commercial director: a good honest name, unpretentious and reliable. Needless to say the names gave rise to plenty of rude jokes.

There were two companies that the Irish-born Robinson wanted to buy in 1993, neither of them a pushover. One, LWT, was a leading television production and broadcasting company. The other was synonymous with luxury and hospitality.

Robinson and his chief lieutenant Charles Allen spent the autumn of 1993 mulling over the possibilities. Robinson was the strategist, the visionary, guided by simple principles of cost control and economies of scale. Allen was the details man, indefatigable and voluble.

The two men liked what they saw in Forte: it was an underperforming company with valuable assets, and ripe for takeover. The chain of budget and mid-market hotels and one of the UK's largest roadside restaurant businesses, under the names Little Chef and Happy Eater, fitted perfectly, they believed, with Granada's own operations. The upmarket hotels were less attractive to a company such as Granada, which knew lots about catering and mid-market television but next to nothing about luxury accommodation. That could be overcome through massive asset sales if the bid succeeded.

However, there were more fundamental obstacles - not least the presence of family management who would fight strenuously, and an antiquated share structure that gave eight doddering, titled men - the Council of Forte - control of 50 per cent of the votes in any takeover battle.

"We just didn't think we could overcome that," Robinson says. He was also prepared to believe that Forte's new management team might be given support by shareholders, making a hostile bid difficult to mount. Nevertheless, Robinson asked Granada's bankers, the blue-chip establishment firm Lazard Brothers, to have a close look at Forte.

At Lazard, two men became

intimately involved in the bid discussions. John Nelson, the firm's vice-chairman and John Dear, the managing director, took a personal interest, aware that a hostile bid would generate millions for the bank.

The team decided to launch the LWT bid first.

Throughout 1994, the Granada management worked on integrating LWT with its existing television operations. "Once the LWT deal was done," Dear says, "it had to be bedded down before the company could sensibly look at another acquisition."

But Robinson and Allen kept a close watch on Forte, and received reports from Lazard at regular intervals. They also took turns visiting Forte hotels and restaurants: trying out menus, checking on service quality, timing waitresses. Says Robinson: "It was quite unfair - Charles got to stay at the George V while I stayed at the Posthouse in Ipswich."

As yet, the visits were informal. Allen and Robinson would exchange anecdotes about a visit to a Happy Eater, or muse about how one or another

Posthouse might be improved.

By the summer of 1995, Robinson was itching for another acquisition. For Granada, growth by takeover was a necessary strategy. The company's core business of TV rentals, broadcasting and leisure were expanding at a respectable rate and throwing off plenty of cash, but organic growth could not deliver the results Robinson was used to delivering to shareholders.

Moreover, the news from Lazard was encouraging. Forte's share price was weak and Granada's was strong. Nelson and Dear pointed out. Robinson had an excellent reputation in the City. They had also decided the Council of Forte might not be the obstacle that everyone had thought.

On 2 August, Forte announced stronger but still muted profits, following Sir Rocco's two-year restructuring programme. Robinson saw his chance. The next day, the bid team was put on full war footing. Robinson lined up extra support from Granada's brokers, Hoare Govett and BZW, and asked Lazard to come up

with a blueprint for a hostile offer. At a key meeting in August, the team that would work together throughout the bid gathered at Granada's modest office in Golden Square. In addition to Robinson, Allen, Nelson and Dear, Simon de Zoete represented BZW and Simon Bragg attended from Hoare Govett. Henry Staunton, Granada's finance director, and Jonathan Clare, of PR firm Citigate, completed the group.

Sensing that it was time to be serious, the team agreed new, sober code names for the operation: Granada would henceforth be "Madrid," while Forte was dubbed "Rome."

Meanwhile, Granada managers were sent out to Forte sites around the country, to gather intelligence. The aim was to identify where profits could be improved. Says Dear: "The whole bid did not make sense for Granada unless profits could be improved by £100m."

Adds Robinson: "We knew these were extremely good sites but that the important work would have to be done on the catering side. We developed a detailed pattern of the restaurants, graded their performance and estimated profits growth."

The other central issue was financing. Granada needed to be able to raise £1.8bn through the issue of new shares, and getting City backing was the group's first true test. (In the event, four nail-biting hours on the morning of the bid proved enough to complete the equity financing arrangements).

On top of that, another £2.5bn was to be raised from banks. Secrecy had been important up until August; now it became crucial. Granada could not risk seeing Forte's share price rise sharply or its own drop before the bid was unveiled.

Robinson had been keen to go in October, but the preparations proved too time-consuming. It was only on 14 November that the proposed bid was put to the Granada board and approved.

The following week was dominated by meetings and phone calls, as the offer document was prepared and the senior banks called in. Only three banks were approached - Chemical Bank, Barclays and ABN Amro - in an effort to keep the potential for leaks to a minimum. Granada also pre-cleared the acquisition with the Office of Fair Trading, agreeing to sell Forte's 26 Wellcome Break motorway service areas to avoid a reference to monopoly regulators.

On the eve of the bid, the team holed up in Lazard's drab City offices until the early hours for the final preparations. Phone calls were put through to six major shareholders, alerting them to the impending bid. Top of that list was Mercury Asset Management, whose vice-chairman Carol Galley would play a pivotal role in the two months of the battle.

The market had begun to sense something was up. Forte's share price rose 35p in early November, and the rumours began to fly. Forte's own advisers, including its PR firm Brunswick, received calls from Forte head office on the eve of

## Chronology

- 1994 Charles Forte opens Meadow Milk Bar, Regent Street.
- 1995 Forte wins contract to cater Heathrow Airport.
- 1998 Forte buys the Veldorf.
- 1998 Company goes public as Forte buys Georges V, Paris.
- 1990 Trust Houses merge with Forte, bringing Little Chef.
- 1995 Forte opens its first Travelodge.
- 1996 Forte links with PepsiCo to run Kentucky Fried Chicken.
- 1991 Gerry Robinson arrives at Granada.
- 1992 Sir Rocco Forte takes over from Lord Forte.
- 1994 MAM beats Granada in £725m successful bid for LWT.
- 22 Nov 1995 Granada bids £3.4 billion for Forte.
- 2 Dec Forte announces defence document.
- 7 Dec Forte issues restaurants to Whitbread for £1.05bn.
- 27 Dec Sale of Forte restaurants to Whitbread for £1.05bn.
- 8 Jan 1996 Council of Forte agrees to sell 780,000 Trust shares.
- 9 Jan Deadline for Granada's final bid. They boost offer 12.
- 15 Jan Rocco splits dual chairman and chief executive role.
- 16 Jan Granada launches £384m dawn raid on Forte shares.
- 19 Jan Rocco buys 9.9 million Forte shares in his own name.
- 23 Jan Granada reaches the 50 per cent needed for takeover at 2.30pm.

Research: Ben Summers

## Chips v Chintz

### On the Road

#### Happy Eater or Little Chef?

- Some outlets to close.
- Refurbishment and new menus in all cafes.
- Many cafes will incorporate popular franchises such as Pizza Hut and Burger King.
- Prices likely to rise.

### Low-end Hotels

- Travelodge, Posthouse
- Travelodge will merge with Granada lodge.
- 50 sites to be "significantly expanded"
- Posthouses to be "rejuvenated" with "in-room entertainment and business services", and their restaurant menus expanded.
- Area-sensitive charges to maximise profits.

### High-end Hotels

- Forte Exclusive, Forte Meridian.
- Granada to sell off all 103 of these luxury and business hotels.
- Forte will bid for them, along with the 52 Heritage hotels.

'I think most work is pointless. There are only three or four things you do a day that have any effect on your business'



[If you don't listen to your customers

We

WE

INSIDE

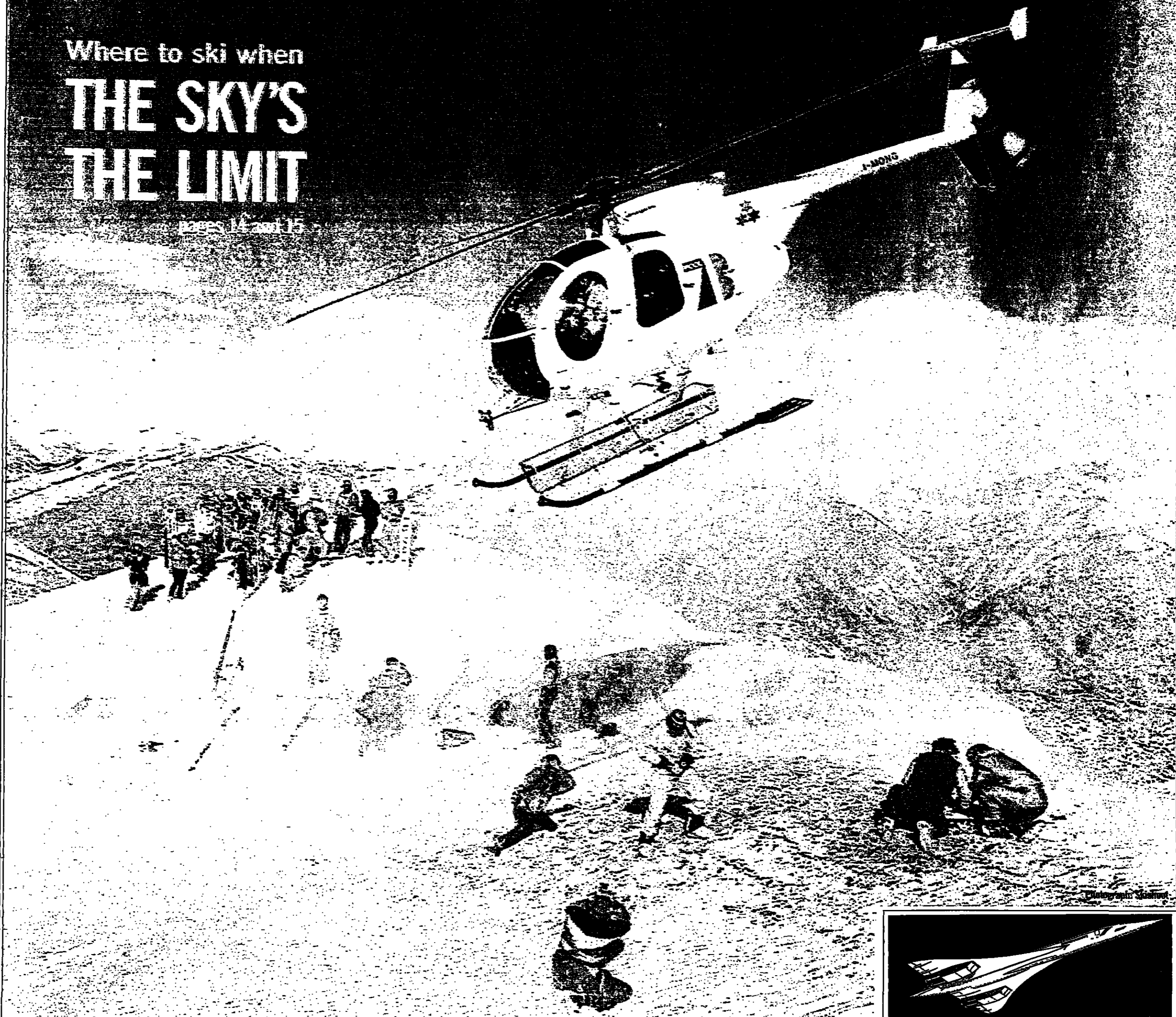
3 One night here. The way it we laugh. Easy. You calling thing has ha

17 Peking is up has a build and a popu sense of dis this is part is arguably capital city

24/1/1996

# Weekend

Where to ski when  
**THE SKY'S  
THE LIMIT**



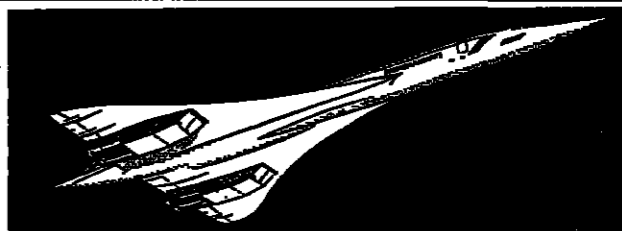
## INSIDE STORIES

**3** One night this bloke went "Oi, come here." The club went silent. He says "The way it works is: joke, punchline, we laugh." "Yeah," says his wife. So I went "Easy, Easy." And he went: "You calling my wife easy?" Next thing his hands are round my throat!

**9** In 1812 Lord Byron could write, 'I awoke one morning and found myself famous,' after his 'Childe Harold's Pilgrimage' was received with rapture. In 1996, writers can achieve a kind of fame long before they have published anything at all

**17** Peking is ugly, polluted, corrupt. It has a building site on each corner, and a population with a developed sense of disdain for foreigners. Yet this is part of the reason to visit what is arguably the most extraordinary capital city in the world

**20** Salesmen have rarely enjoyed a good press, but even so Daewoo's findings were spectacularly damning: their customers rated car salesmen 'marginally higher than serial killers'. Pushy, intimidating and patronising were some of the kinder adjectives



### TORONTO OR NEW YORK

BA 747 from Heathrow to Toronto on 23 May, 11 Aug, 30 Aug or 14 Sep. • five nights at the deluxe Sheraton • city tour • harbour cruise • Niagara with helicopter • Phantom of the Opera • Concorde to Heathrow £1,999 or £2,999 with O.E. and QE2 cruise to New York

Concorde from Heathrow to New York almost any day • four nights at Sheraton • BA747 return £2,499

### MONACO GRAND PRIX

Eurostar or fly to Paris on 18 May • city tour • overnight at Nikko Hotel • Concorde supersonic to Nice • reserved seat for Monaco Grand Prix • return to Gatwick £1,299

### QE2 AND ORIENT-EXPRESS

Orient-Express to Southampton on 14 April • three night QE2 cruise to Tenerife • Concorde to Heathrow £1,299

Orient-Express to Southampton on 8 May • five night QE2 cruise to Barcelona via Ibiza and Marseille • Concorde supersonic to Heathrow £1,499

Concorde supersonic to Brussels on 21 June • two night QE2 cruise to Southampton via Le Havre (for Paris) • Orient-Express to Victoria £1,099

Concorde to Reykjavik on 8 July • nine night QE2 Land of the Midnight Sun cruise to the Norwegian Fjords • Orient-Express from Southampton to Victoria £2,499

### BRUNO v. TYSON

767 from Luton or Gatwick to Las Vegas on 11 March • seven nights at first class hotel • optional tours • reserved seat £999 or £1,499 Ringside

For our full colour brochure, please telephone:

0181-992 6991

or write to

SUPERLATIVE TRAVEL

43, Woodhurst Road, London, W3 6SS

PICTURE STORY 1  
INTERVIEW 2  
SHOPPING 48

ARTS 7-8  
BOOKS 9-10  
GARDENING 12

COUNTRY 13  
TRAVEL 14-15  
MOTORING 20

PROPERTY 21  
MONEY 22-25  
GOING OUT 26

TV & RADIO  
TODAY 23  
SUNDAY 27



## picture story



## SILENCE, PLEASE

Pictures by Emma Boam. Story by Steven Poole.



It's Saturday morning at Kentish Town Library in London. A Falstaffian figure of a man, russet-bearded, trampishly chic, is ensconced in one of the floor-skimming armchairs, concentrating fiercely on *Roset's Thesaurus*. He's doing a crossword. "Undergrowth... 'Bracken' or 'thicket'. Yes, but that doesn't fit that one, which is 'sprained'... That's a film one - can't find that." Someone suggests an answer. "Emma Peel?" Where can I find out 'Emma Peel'? Is it a current series?

The library is the place people come to find answers. Big answers, little answers. ("What's the chicken doing, mum?" "He's looking at a house.") They consult leaflets or medical encyclopedias, gaze at the small ads, read the papers, or drift around, just browsing. One businesslike woman, clutching a handful of CDs, has set herself on a course of musical education: "I'm working through the classics. I'm on B, for Bach."

Lunchtime, and an elderly lady has stopped at a revolving stand of paperback crime novels. She has no time for some of the library's recent innovations, such as the section heading "Goo", promising "A Good Read". "It's not very nice, is it? It's bloody patronising," she says with a girlish chuckle, waving her walking-stick for emphasis. "If I'm pushed for time, I go to crime paper-

backs. But every time I look at a woman's one, now, I find the detective is female. Now I don't mind that. I'm all in favour - but does she *have* to be a lesbian?"

In the children's section, three sisters are studying. Elizabeth, eight, is looking up information about the pyramids. "We're doing a project on Tutankhamun, and the face that he had on his grave. Not the face he had on." Six-year-old Rachel is "looking up the body, what's inside it, so when I'm older I can say to Mum and Dad, 'I already know, so you don't have to take me to school.'" She pauses. "I like the library, it's full of knowledge."

The afternoon wears somewhat sleepily on. People are idly leafing through newspapers. A woman, snug in a furry hat, sleeps, her head nodding forward into a splayed copy of an appreciation of John Gielgud. As darkness falls, the children's section starts emptying: soon all that remains is a pink-and-blue toy triceratops lying abandoned on the floor.

Folded up in armchair and a beige mac is Philip Toms, a newspaper vendor with bird-like blue eyes. He's been here, reading, for hours. "This is a crime thing. It's about a wealthy family, and the elder son went off the rails and ended up murdering the whole family. It's based on the true facts." He has his own theory about crime. "I think there's no deterrent at all, except for chaining 'em to the wall. It's the lifestyle. This is the Nineties: it's dog eat dog. That's why I come into public libraries."



## THIS WEEKEND WHY NOT...

EDITED BY DAVID BENEDICT

BUY  
Heart of the  
Congos

Stock up on roast fish, collie weed and corn bread and settle back with this classic album. Lee "Scratch" Perry's production dates from 1977, when falsetto vocal duo The Congos dropped into Scratch's Black Ark studio with a number of key Biblical quotations on their minds. What resulted is one of the greatest roots reggae albums ever: a righteous skank through groves of Old Testament theology, underpinned by Scratch's trademark spooky shuffle and saturated with enough reverb to moisten the most dessicated palate. Listen out for cosmic moos, scrunching rowlocks and - *flump!* - the greatest lo-tech bass drum sound of all time. Available now for the first time on *disque compacte*, with five additional tracks from the vaults and Blood & Fire's fabled packaging overkill. Yum.

Heart of the Congos (Blood & Fire label)

WATCH  
Burnt by the Sun

There's a lot of white in *Burnt by the Sun*. White lace and long-fringed shawls; braids woven prettily with white ribbons, and the villain is a cad with a cable-knit cricket sweater. But this handsome film about well-off people is much too boisterous and badly behaved to be a British period-piece. It unfolds during a single long summer's day - but this is one of those Northern summers with a hint of melancholy. The year is 1936 and we're in Russia. The film adopts a child's eye view of the approaching atrocities of Stalinism, but anyone expecting unleavened angst or sentiment will be amazed by the droll humour in this generous, high-spirited film which most rhapsodic reviewers described glowingly as Chekhovian. It also won the Best Foreign Film Oscar and the Cannes Special Jury Prize.

£15.99 and available to rent

WIN  
Theatre  
tickets and  
other prizes

Today is the 15th birthday of the Half Price Ticket Booth, a mecca for theatrical bargain-hunters who nab top-price tickets to West End shows at half price. To celebrate, stars from the shows will be gathering at 12.30pm for the Birthday Fanfare, songs from the shows and everything from leaping out of cakes (very *Singin' in the Rain*) to distributing hundreds of prizes including theatre memorabilia, merchandise, meals and many more. Tickets to some of the best West End shows will be on sale at the usual 50 per cent discount (plus the handling fee of £2), and the day sees the launch of the Booth Bonus Card, a new scheme to encourage Londoners to use this invaluable institution. Can you afford to miss this opportunity to meet the cast of *The Fields of Ambrosia*, the hotly-anticipated "electric-chair musical" opening next week? Leicester Square, London WC2

JOIN  
Children's  
Birdwatch  
Weekend

Not everyone is miserable about the weather. The folks at the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds are rather excited because the cold weather across Europe should send some tremendously unlikely species into gardens across the land, from waxwings to Scandinavian arctic redpolls. These rare visitors fly over when food sources are scarce there. Children wanting to take part should (swaddled in scarves) watch their garden or local park for one hour this weekend and record the highest number of each species of bird seen at any one time. Birds that land on the ground or in trees and bushes should be counted, but not those flying overhead. Will the blue tit topple the starling from its number one spot? Will the song thrush make a comeback this year?

For free information pack and voting details, write to YOC Big Garden Birdwatch, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL

VISIT  
The National  
Railway  
Museum

Have you ever seen a woman chipping tickets on a train? British Rail may well be an equal opportunities employer, but from growing announcements about leaving on the line to management warnings against privatisation to surly guards telling you as little as possible, the image of the railways is overwhelmingly male. Thanks to "Oh! Miss Porter", the National Railway Museum exhibition, we now know that the first recorded woman workers were gatekeepers over 350 years ago. By the First World War there were women porters; ticket collectors; cleaners and Annie Eva Martin was sworn in as the first woman special railway constable on 5 March 1917, but the first woman driver didn't begin work until 1981. The exhibition is an entire social and political history. Not just for anoraks.

National Railway Museum, Leeman Road, York YO2 4XJ (01904 621263)

# Oooh, er, cripes

For Steve Coogan, a part in a children's movie; for Lee Evans, a lead in the new Bruce Willis thriller. As far as Hollywood is concerned, the bloke with the enormous dry-cleaning bills is Britain's hottest comic property. By Jim White

One evening earlier this week, Lee Evans was finishing off a day's rehearsal for his all-new West End show in a hired room in Soho. He had just completed running through the punishing opening sequence in which he falls down a Busby Berkeley-style flight of stairs, tumbles through a trap-door and ends up marooned under the stage, unable to communicate with his audience; and all in about 20 seconds. As he finished, awash with sweat, panting, he found himself confronted by the woman who had booked the room for the next session.

"She takes one look at me, and of course I'm all like, wired," says Evans, recalling the incident by performing a mime of a very wired person. "And she goes, 'Oh dear'. And I says 'What?' And she says, 'Oh dear, I'm sorry'. And I says 'What?' And she says, 'I'm not sure if I can be much use, you need professional help.' It turns out she's running a relaxation class there."

Anyone who has seen Lee Evans on stage would quickly conclude he is well beyond the reach of relaxation classes: limbs defying all known rules of skeletal construction; sweat washing from every pore; face gurning into the sort of pose your mother used to warn you about adopting in case the wind changed, he tumbles around in a Norman Wisdom cast-off suit in the sort of way that suggests major damage is inevitable. Relaxing it isn't: his is the kind of exhibition of clowning perfected by Buster Keaton, a physical *tour de force* that leaves his audience exhausted and him with one of the biggest dry cleaning bills in Essex.

"There's this Greek bloke in Southend does my cleaning," Evans says. "At one point he refused to clean them: 'Sorry I no clean them anymo', Mr Lee.' Then he came up with this new formula to clean suits that have really had it, make them look fabulous again. And he did it by experimenting on my suits. I go through suits at a terrible rate. See, it's the sweat, it rots the stitches."

Just at the moment, worrying where his next suit is coming from is not a problem for Lee Evans. In 1996 he will undertake the following: a solo stand-up (and fall-down) season in the West End, a one-hour special for ITV, a six-part series for Channel 4 and a six-part series for NBC television in America. Oh, and two Hollywood movies, including one which starts filming in April, directed by Luc Besson and starring Bruce Willis. He is, in short, Britain's hottest comic property, facing the kind of career uptake, he says (adopting a Donald Sinden accent) "that many a thesp would give their right bollock for". Not bad, this, for a lad who when he left school could barely read.

Lee seems to be the comedy name of the moment. There's Lee Cornes, a stalwart of the London circuit; there's Lee Hurst, whose shining pate is the weekly butt, as it were, of Nick Hancock in BBC1's *They Think It's All Over*; and there's Lee Sharpe, presently something of a joke in Manchester United's midfield. But any suggestion that Evans is a Lee-come-lately is to ignore the long evening of graft that preceded his overnight success. Evans's dad, Dave, was a jobbing entertainer, who played piano, sax and drums on the club circuit in the Sixties and Seventies. Our Lee spent most of his childhood by night sitting in the car outside gigs with a shandy and a packet of crisps and by day flitting from school to school, pulling faces at the back of class in the vain hope of being accepted. When his parents finally settled down, in Southend, he was a teenager and virtually uneducated. So he took himself off to art college in Thurrock (in between getting married at 17 to Heather, who is still his wife), where he found outlet for the thing he was good at: music.

"I was the drummer in a band called the Forgotten Five. And that's what we were: forgotten, big time. We did our own stuff, played places like Shrimpers in Brentwood and the Esplanade Southend and we were crap. Our lead singer snapped at anything. His name was David Salmon. At gigs you'd be drumming away and suddenly you'd hear this 'Boinggg' and you'd turn round and Dave's guitar's wrapped round this bloke's head and the bloke's going 'I never said a thing'. And Dave's going 'You bloody did'. That was nighty. He's a postman now, Dave. He came to see us in Cardiff on the last tour. He could not believe it, there's 3,500 people in this hall and it blew him away. Afterwards he said: 'It's everything we dreamed of as kids. I just never thought, man. Not you Lee.'"

If Dave was surprised, even more astonished would be some of the people who witnessed Evans in his early days as a comedian. Driven by penny into trying his hand at everything (including a spell as assistant to Ted, the

spiritualist window dresser for a Southend department store), he spent most nights at talent contests in Essex pubs, doing gags like "My wife's so fat she ain't got measurements, she's got time zones."

"One time I got picked up by this small time agent," Evans recalls. "You'd go great in Manchester, you would. You'd smash 'em," he says. So he put me on this tour of Manchester, Bradford and Bolton working men's clubs. And go smash I did. I'd turn up on stage and the cry would go out: 'Kill

'im'. These were clubs where the cabaret was booked for target practice. Take Liverpool. Liverpool's a comedy city and that was the trouble. I weren't funny. One night this bloke in the audience went 'Oi, come here'. And everyone in the club stopped and it went silent as I walked off the stage towards him. He says: 'You see the way it works here is: joke, punch-line, we laugh.' Then his wife next to him went: 'Yeah, he's right: joke, punch-line, then we laugh.' So I went: 'Easy, easy.' And he went: 'You calling my wife easy?' Next

thing he's got me on the floor with his hands round me throat going: 'You twat.' And everyone's going: 'ave 'im Bert, go 'head, eh, do 'im'. I only escaped because the manager got me out through the kitchens."

Like everything he says, this anecdote is accompanied by a furious mime which ends with Evans clutching his own throat, choking while attempting to punch himself on the nose. He is not one to let an experience pass which can be later workshopped up into a comedy routine.

"I can't stop staring at people," he says. "I nearly got beat up at Heathrow last year, I was staring at this bloke and he goes: 'What you staring at.' I said 'No, no, no, I'm not.' But I was. And he went for me. He had this funny twist in his back, see."

And off he goes again, performing a frankly schizophrenic routine in which a man with a funny twist in his back struggling along with a couple of suitcases starts threatening himself: "What you staring at, I'm not. I'll do yah. I'm not. I'll have you. No, stop. Aaargh."

At the end of which, Evans collapses in high-pitched hysterics: "Hurururur. Hurururur. Hurururur."

Undaunted by his Liverpool mauling in the mid-Eighties, Evans decided to try his hand closer to his Southend home, on the London pub circuit.

"This was the time when to be a comedian there meant saying 'Thatcher' and everyone hissing," he says. "Well I used to come on, do my stuff, fall over and that, and you could see the audience just thinking: 'What the bloody hell.'"

From there, it was just a short step to the Edinburgh Festival, the summer feeding ground of the London circuit. An easy option, you would have thought, after the gruelling apprenticeship in Liverpool.

"No, it was difficult in its own way," he says. "You feel you don't belong, because you haven't got the brains. I always feel inadequate, whatever I do. I use that as a motivation, though. I think: how comes I'm not accepted?"

After five years of summering in Edinburgh, he finally was accepted, winning the Perrier Award, the annual title for best new comedian which generally comes complete with a fat television contract.

"I couldn't believe I'd won it. I'd never won anything, ever, nothing. And I won it, I mean, it was..." And he performs a mime of an ecstatic person in such a way that you believe it probably was like that for him.

The thing that really projected Lee Evans into the upper reaches, however, was his appearance last year in Peter Chelsom's film *Funny Bones*. A remarkable piece about the bastard off-spring of a great American stand-up finding himself adopted by a sad family of English end-of-pier comics, it was a cult hit in America.

"Everyone loved it," he says, "but it kind of disappeared just as it was taking off. It doesn't matter to me, because everyone in the industry went and said [adopts a big film-producer style American accent] 'Let's sign the kid up for movies. You wanna do movies kid?' And then what happened was they present you with a script where you're lost in a desert with a dog and you have to look down at the dog and say: 'Will we ever get out of here Charlie?' And you go: 'I ain't doing that.' I turned loads down. About 10 I turned down. But, see, I didn't want to go too big. I'm still learning, the worse thing you can do is set yourself up as something and then die on your arse. When Luc Besson came along, bang, wallop, I'm there. I signed this thing not to say anything about it. But I tell you, Bruce Willis is in it. And the reason I'm doing it is: I'll learn. Next to him, you know, he'll be all [adopts a big Willis-like accent] 'Don't put the camera on me there buddy, the light's bad.' And I'll be all 'Oooh, er, cripes, so that's how to do it.'"

"To tell you the truth," he adds, "my pants are full. Up to the brim. That's the way I am. It's like this live show. I've sunk a lot of money into it - eek - I mean I earn a bit of money last year, what's it for? I don't drink. I don't bird it, so I've decided to spend it on the show."

And spend he has: on props like a piano with a mind of its own, or a set of spinning plates which rotate in slow motion to facilitate a typically surreal sketch about, well, a slow-motion circus plate-spinner.

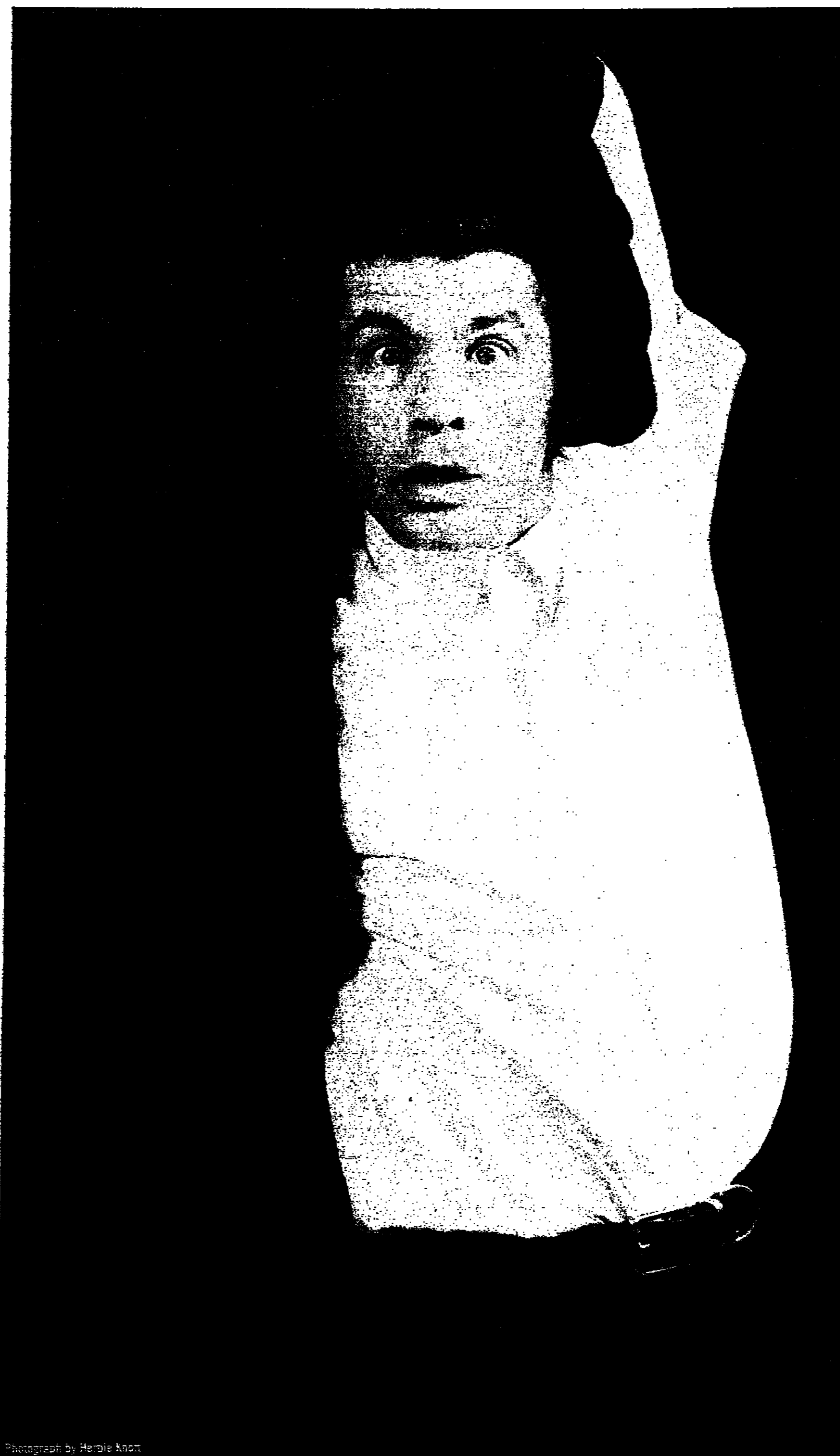
"See, I'm terrified of falling. It's the West End, I'm terrified of not giving them enough. I'm a bit paranoid about that. It's my biggest drawback, that, I waste a lot of time and money."

After he has concluded a whole performance of a photo session, in which he pulls a thousand faces and strikes a hundred rubber-limbed poses and leaves his audience of two damp with laughing, Evans heads back to his tiny little Soho office.

Walking through Soho with Lee Evans takes a bit of time, what with all the conversations he has with people, the little impromptu performances he gives and the amount of laughing he does. Others with faces made famous by the telly must get stopped by their public, but the difference with Lee Evans is, it's him doing the stopping. "All right mate, how you doing?" he asks a rather bemused youth in a Russian hat before shaking him by the hand: "Fanks mate, appreciate it," he says to a business man who let him pass through a narrow bit of the pavement; and "Ere that's a fantastic laugh, do it again, go on, go on," he says to a giggly teenage girl, who duly obliges by giggling uncontrollably.

"That's lovely, that is," he says as he walks on. "What a smashing laugh, eh?"

At the Lyric Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London, W1 5 Feb-16 Mar  
Booking: 0171-494 5048



Photograph by Herbie Knoch

# shopping

## six of the best winter drawers

- Emporio Armani: T-shirt £35, brief £17.50**  
Perhaps a bit over-priced for cotton underwear, but these are quality garments with a designer label thrown in. Available in small, medium, large. From Armani stores; enquiries on 0171-581 8009
- Calvin Klein: grey marl bra £10.50, briefs £7**  
Calvin Klein wins on the competitive price front. This isn't this sort of bra that offers a lot of support, but it does create a very soft line for wearing under T-shirts. Available from House of Fraser stores
- Knickerbox: cream chemise, £17.99**  
This viscose/cotton ribbed shift may not be practical as an undergarment but would be great for sleeping in. From Knickerbox branches nationwide. Enquiries on 0171-284 1744
- John Smedley: top, £21, boxer £27**  
Luxurious twosome in Sea Island cotton. Big knickers seem to be a key trend in underwear: these ones are ribbed at the waistband for an extra smooth look. From Simpsons of Piccadilly, London W1, or mail order on 01629 534 331
- Muji: camisole three-pack £14.50, with matching high-cut briefs £9.50**  
Outstanding value from the Japanese shop that gives us useful, stylish basics. Many a girl can be seen dancing the night away in these vests. From Muji stores; enquiries: 0171-494 1197
- Knickerbox: black vest with lace trim £12.99, pants £9.99**  
Again these "hot pant" style knickers are very popular. They're also soft and durable. From branches of Knickerbox  
Stylist: Charlie Harrington  
Photographer: Andrew Lamb

## We buy rust. We sell romance

Michael Cripps rescues and reconditions old brass bedsteads. Clive Fewins met him



Michael Cripps breathed heavily on to the brass knobs at the base of the large Victorian cast-iron bed with its ornate semi-circular headboard. "This one's not for sale," he declared.

Mr Cripps, who runs Once Upon a Time, has some 400 antique brass and iron bedsteads in 4,000 sq ft of old farm buildings in the village of Ripley, Surrey. He treats them like an extended family. "I put a high price on my favourite beds in the hope that they won't sell," he said. "That way, I gain the pleasure of viewing them daily for a few years."

One of his favourites is an all-brass monolith, made in 1872 at the Birmingham factory of James Schoolbred and Co, retailers of Tottenham Court Road London—a company that eventually became Maples. Fully restored, the bed's price tag is £4,750. It has been in the showroom a year.

"The problem is that many of the beds inside that we do want to sell and on which we have worked very hard, often don't sell, while the unrenovated ones outside sell well," Mr Cripps said.

He explained that customers would rather come and choose from the sad-looking unrenovated

specimens lying out in the cold. "It's rather like visiting a dog's home. Customers like to select a really down-at-heel one and then see what we can do to bring it roaring back into life." Mr Cripps has devoted the last 18 years of his life to rescuing antique piles of rust and selling them for an average of £1,000-£1,200 for a fully-restored Victorian cast-iron model.

He is one of half a dozen or so specialist restorers of Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian antique bedsteads. Companies like Once Upon a Time report steady sales over the past few years, with no more dips due to the recession than any other retailer might expect.

However, restorers believe the supply is drying up, meaning prices will inevitably rise and make bedsteads purchased now a good investment for the future. "The majority of my customers don't look at it this way, however," Mr Cripps said. "They are often young people who have set their hearts on a genuine antique metal bedstead and are prepared to save up for a couple of years for something different from a divan with a headboard."

According to Mr Cripps, the beds are virtually all different. "Nearly all manufacturers had their own

designs, so there is a huge variety if you know where to look. The quality of the originals is usually so high that they come up beautifully—especially when they are taken back to the original metal and burnished. By comparison, modern reproductions are utterly feeble.

"The heyday of manufacturing was around the onset of the Crimean War in 1854, when Florence Nightingale focused the eyes of the nation on health issues as never before. Metal bedsteads, considered more healthy than the traditional rosewood and mahogany versions, rapidly found their ways into hospitals and schools. Before long, the general mass of the population made the change."

The other usual requirement from customers is that the bed should be "stretched". This means extending it from its likely 4ft 6ins width to the 5ft more acceptable to modern tastes. The usual means of doing this is by inserting extra decorative pieces within the additional iron or steel bars. It is a practice frowned upon in some sections of the trade because it means the bed is no longer authentic.

"I used to have misgivings, but we only find one 5ft bed to every 200 or so 4ft 6ins or 4ft beds that come

our way," said Mr Cripps. "Extending beds helps to keep prices down and gives old beds a new life."

Most of the old bedsteads that end up in workshops come in via "runners" in the antique trade, who quite often bring them from Ireland or from Spain, Portugal and Morocco, where modern divan beds are slowly replacing the metal ones.

According to Jonathan Tebb, who runs A Barn Full of Brass Beds in Lincolnshire, more than 90 per cent of them were originally made in Birmingham.

"By the 1870s, it is said 6,000 brass and iron bedsteads were being produced, vast numbers of which were exported," he said. "They were not only made for the well-to-do, with pearl inlays, faceted mirrors, scroll work and superior castings, but also for the ordinary folk."

"In Victorian times, the bed was almost a status symbol, like cars are regarded by some today. But the simple ones were in many ways the most elegant, and are often rarer, as they were the models that were more often thrown away."

While Mr Cripps either sells his beds in their original burnished and lacquered bare metal form, or paints them black, Mr Tebb specialises in painting his beds in the

range of National Trust colours—mainly French grey, sugar-bag blue, cork green, fox red and Sudbury yellow. Most of his beds are restored to order, the customer coming to him to choose first.

"Generally, my clients, who come from throughout the country, prefer this approach," he said. "I tell them I buy rust and I sell romance."

Reproduction brass and iron bedsteads available from: Enchanted House, St Blazey, Cornwall (01726 812213). Depitch Designs Ltd, London (0181-687 0867) sell their reproduction metal bedsteads throughout the UK.



## bazaar

### Bestsellers: Top 10 at Lakeland Plastics

From a small company selling plastic boxes, Lakeland Plastics has evolved into a mail-order phenomenon. Much of its success is based on the fact that many of the ideas for new gadgets are supplied by its customers. One of these is the new mini mix, a tool for whisking one egg white; another is the non-drip honey spoon, which perches on the jar rim. The success of the wonder whisks and Mermaid roasting tins is

explained by their starring roles on BBC2's *Della Smith's Winter Collection*. Call 015394 88100 for a catalogue.

- |                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| 1 Mini mix                 | £3.95       |
| 2 Honey spoon              | £2.95       |
| 3 Cast-iron veg shredder   | £23.95      |
| 4 Spice tower              | £16.95      |
| 5 Artificial azalea bush   | £9.95       |
| 6 Wonder whisk             | £2.95 (two) |
| 7 Mermaid roasting tin     | £23.95      |
| 8 Dishwasher fragrance     | £2.35       |
| 9 Magic Glove              | £4.95       |
| 10 Mary Berry flour sifter | £1.99       |

## Good thing

### Heart apron, £9.95

Foodie partners will probably appreciate this red-check heart apron on Valentines Day more than a gift-wrapped box of rum truffles. It's made from 100 per cent cotton, is generously sized and reasonably priced. Other Divertimenti presents for favourite cooks include heart-shaped cake tins (£6.95 a pair), china coeur à la crème moulds (£19.95) and a pretty Early American heart-pattern ceramic shortbread mould (£19.95). Add £3.95 p&p. Order a.s.a.p. (for 14 Feb) from the Divertimenti catalogue (0171-386 9911), or try the shops at 45-47 Wigmore Street, London W1 and 139 Fulham Road, SW3.



## Mad thing

### Click phone, £29.95

You don't have a mobile phone but would like your friends to think you have. What do you do? Turn to the Innovations catalogue and order this cunning "home phone that looks like a mobile". To use, pull out the dummy aerial, and flip open the mouthpiece. To close, push back the aerial, click shut and put down anywhere. The only drawback is the subtle giveaway of a curly flex, which even if it is six metres long ("to let you roam") won't fool anyone. From Innovations: 01793 514666.



## Checkout Oxfam

Oxfam, Queen's Road, Bristol (0117 929 4890)

What is it? An Oxfam shop, but without the racks of lurex jumpers and outgrown tweed jackets that most people shop at Oxfam for. This shop is one of three Oxfam shops that stock only Oxfam's Fair Trade products—intended to benefit the people who actually make the products by giving them a fair price (the others are in Chester and Chichester).

Stock: Best sellers are the more useful or consumable items such as the delicious Café Direct coffee, grown by Latin-American and African co-operatives, the Fair Trade chocolate, made in Switzerland but from fairly traded beans and sugar, or the recycled Oxfam writing paper. Irritatingly, not all the goods are marked with information on where and how they're made.

Do buy: Bolivian dried bananas (£1.40 a pack), Café Direct coffee (£2.49 a jar), Indian doormat (£7.45), Guava jam from Burkina Faso (£1.65), laundry basket from the Philippines (£18.75)

Don't buy: The expensive knick-knacks that sell well at Christmas but gather dust the rest of the year, ie. flowery blue porcelain pigs from Thailand, carved wooden tiger masks

## collecting • antiques, galleries

**FINE ANTIQUE DINING TABLES**

A good selection of 19th century mahogany extending dining tables always in stock

**Kill Farm Antiques**  
Leekhamptead,  
Berks

Library and writing furniture also usually available

01438 638341/638361  
Only 6 mins from J19 M4

We will endeavour to find the table you require

**NURSERY HEIRLOOMS**

TRADITIONAL ROCKING HORSES

Real Leather & Brass Accessories  
Genuine Horsehair Mane & Tail

Hand-made to order  
**Ring: 01372 454722**

**ART DECO**

Large selection of ceramics, frames, and much, much more.

"Add Yours" limited number of hand-painted antique ceramics of remarkable prices.

Telephone for details.

WITNEY & ASSOCIATES  
Newly decorated from 3000  
3000 House Lane  
Pole Lane, Wotton Bassett  
Wiltshire BA20 2JH

**SALE**

ROYAL ALBERT HALL

**FINAL WEEK!**

**AUGUST END**  
28 JANUARY

0990 225366

**BUREAU**

Fine reproduction mahogany

£650 ono

Telephone  
0171 401 2562

(Eves or Wends)

**World of Drawings and Watercolours**

from 1600 to the present day—all for sale

Lectures 25 January

"Watercolour Surgery"  
27 January

**Park Lane Hotel**  
Piccadilly, London W1

24-28 January

11am-8pm  
7pm last two days

Admission £7.00

Information:  
0181 995 1488

To advertise in the Antiques Section please call

**Amy Beeton**  
0171 293 2028

or

**David Owen**  
0171 293 2330



## AUCTIONS

There are spates of bobbin faking. Horse bones are lathe-turned, carved, then buried in manure to artificially age them

Pre-war televisions, highly collectable, are doubling in price every couple of sales at Phillips' Bayswater. Fewer survive than Stradivarius violins. At one of Phillips' twice-yearly "mechanical music" sales last September, a table-top HMV set made in 1936—the first year of public broadcasting—fetched £2,875. In Tuesday's sale (12 noon) a 1936 Marconi 706 television radio, with a screen the size of a tennis ball and a walnut cabinet, is estimated at £2,000-£2,200. There are commission bids in excess of that and it will probably fetch over £3,500.

Phillips, with a virtual monopoly on the vintage telly market, gets the highest prices. The result is that artful collectors have been buying sets at Sotheby's and Christie's South Kensington for a song and reselling them for nearly three times as much at Phillips. After a 1936 floor-standing HMV had been sold for £990 at Christie's South Kensington last year, an uncannily similar set turned up at Phillips' May sale, fetching £2,645. Phillips has given an

estimate of £2,500-£3,500 on a 1937 Marconi 702 with mirror lid, bought for £990 at Sotheby's last October. But the buyer prefers to hang on to it.

Some post-war tellyes are going down in price. A 20in white Keracolour with classic globe shape (made in 1970, inspired by the 1969 moon landing) was worth £500 at auction two years ago when Michael Bennett-Levy's guidebook *Historic Televisions* ignited the telly-collecting craze. The specimen in this week's sale is estimated at only £150-£250 because every serious collector now has one. Meanwhile, the supply of pre-war models has all but dried up. Phillips sold 15 in 1993, 10 in 1994 and only one last year. Will this week's be the first and last for 1996?

The nearest thing to a Keracolour in the homes of 18th and 19th century lacemakers was a 10in high water-filled spherical glass vase, back-lit by a glass oil lamp of about the same size, that focussed light onto their meticulous work.

They feature in Wright of Derby's wondrously illuminated paintings—but were not bright enough to prevent many lacemakers going blind. Two lacemakers' lamps with hollow stem and glass globe are estimated at £100-£150 each in Phillips' sale of textiles, lace and period costume, Tuesday (11am). Only one or two a year crop up at auction. The sale has plenty of pencil-like turned bone and wood lace-making bobbins decorated with spangles at one end, many carved with names and mis-spelt lines such as "I long to be mared". Lots of 24 are estimated at £150-£200. From time to time, there are spates of bobbin faking in the antique world. Horse bones are lathe-turned, carved, then buried in manure to artificially age them. Phillips' Anne Marie Benson spots them because their incisions, made with modern tools, are too sharp, and because they lack signs of wear and the slightly glossy patina caused by perspiration.

John Windsor

# Planet kitsch

The Sixties Space Age promised a world of silver suits and inflatable furniture. But it's only now that the high street can deliver. By Jonathan Glancey

Space is in danger of becoming a black hole, or a hubbly-bubble, in the memory of the media. Having just listened to Radio 4's *Beam Me Up Scotty*, "a nostalgic zoom through Space Age pop culture", I find myself, if not stunned, fazed, and out of time.

*Beam Me Up Scotty* tells me (a child of the Sixties) that I was brought up in age when we all had inflatable plastic chairs, wore disposable paper underwear, and boasted a Lava lamp in every room. Yet, for those of us who lacked central heating, fitted carpets and refrigerators (our first fridge came in 1967), such novelties were the stuff of dreams and of Tommy Robert's dreamy "Mr Freedom", shop-of-the-future in the King's Road. I bought my first Lava lamp last year.

I was clearly not a part of Radio 4's Space Age, but then few of us were. As children we waited impatiently for next week's *Eagle* to see Dan Dare ("pilot of the future") battling with the Mekon. We thrilled to Soyuz and Saturn rocket launches taking Reds and Yanks with crew cuts and the Right Stuff towards the moon, yet the world we inhabited was more steam age than Space Age.

We knew about Sputniks, looked forward to sherbert and rice-paper "flying saucers" on the walk back from Mass on Sunday, craved Lyon's Maid Zoom ice-llies, could hum the tiny tune of "Telstar" by the Tornados, and wanted to be Daleks; yet the Comet was still a steam-hauled flyer from Euston to Manchester, and Evening Star the last steam locomotive built by British Railways (Swindon, 1960). A Constellation was one of the triple-finned American turbo-prop that arched over the tree-tops. Mars was a bar of "thick, thick" chocolate (price: 6d), and Milky Way the sweet you could eat between meals (3d).

My first space rocket (6s 11d) was launched with the aid of a catapult. On a good day it could penetrate the playground-sphere, commencing its parachute-assisted descent to Earth at about 100ft. It was a lot less sophisticated than my Mamod SEA stream engine, which, powered by meph and water, could (when attached to the right cogs and eccentrics) polish a set of table knives within the hour, whilst intoxicating guinea-pigs and terrifying cats.

Equally, the veteran transformer that controlled my model trains was much more sophisticated than the miniature RAF Javelin, Hunter and Lightning fighters (as advertised in *Eagle*) that, filled with noxious gas, rocketed across the garden so much faster (and more dangerously) than defunct

Airfix Lancasters stuffed with flaming, paraffin-soaked rags and catapulted from bedroom windows.

There was more fun to be had from making walkie-talkies from two tin cans and a length of string than from a smug classmate's utterly wet and weedy Dan Dare 2-way Space Radio. And, instead of watching *Fireball XL5* or *Lost in Space* on the black-and-white telly, a much better way to tour the cosmos was to climb a tall tree, and, from its swaying cockpit, follow the vapour trails of military jets reaching for the stratosphere from nearby air bases.

Perhaps the best way of all was to snuggle under dogs and bedclothes on pipe-cracking nights, kitted-out with hot water bottle, torch and *The Swift Book of Space Flight*, and dream one's seven-year-old self to Andromeda and galaxies beyond.

Girls' (chiz chiz) dreams of space had little to do with disintegrator guns and knowing the top speed of an X-15 rocket plane; girls dreamt of dressing up and pirouetting into Narnia and Oz-like worlds, or variations on the mysterious island where Sandra, a kidnapped orphan, has been taken to train in a secret ballet school (a tale told weekly in *July*).

Teenage sisters brought the Space Age closer to home with giggly discussions turning on the "phwor" factor of Apollo astronauts. Neil Armstrong's giant leap for mankind seemed rather less important to womankind (now students of "Cathy and Claire's Problem Page" in *Jackie*) than whether he was cuter than "Buzz" Aldrin.

By then they had developed a crush on Captain Kirk or Mr Spock (having abandoned Napoleon Solo and Ilya Kuryakin). To be fair, the micro-mini-skirted Lieutenant Uhuru was beginning to exert a strange attraction on us boys (enuff said).

Girls were the final frontier for Space cadets, but, sufferin' satellites (as Dan Dare would have said), all that embarrassing stuff was acon in the future. Until then, space would remain the stuff of catapults, burnt fingers, electric shocks, scorching jets of super-heated steam and stary yarns read under blankets. Today, the Sixties' Space Age has caught up with the world of the Jupiter probe and Hubble space-camera: inflatable furniture, silver dresses, plastic hipsters, rocket-style Lava lamps have only now landed in the high street, 30 years after the late, great Space Age of the Sixties.

"Beam Me Up Scotty", presented by John Peel: 10am R4, Friday 2 Feb



## A life in the shift of

Navin Patel, owner of Raj's Newsagents in Ashford, Kent

Navin Patel, 40, and his father, bought a newsagent's licence in 1971, having been expelled from Uganda by Idi Amin. He is married and has two daughters, 12 and nine, and a six-year-old son. They live above the shop.

"I get up at 5am. We are Hindus and even one has to have a bath and pray before breakfast. I pray for about 15 minutes. My wife does half an hour, and my mother: an hour. Dad retired in August, and for the last two he's been raising money for the new Hindu temple in Neasden. It was Dad who first saw the shop advertised in *Dalton's Weekly*. 'This is a very good shop,' he said. 'In five or six years we will make our money back. He was right. It's been a gold mine. I have three cars. One is a Mercedes.

"In the Eighties we bought a nursing home, too. My wife works there. Sometimes she works until 4am and still gets up at 6a to cook for us. It's in our genes: work, work. I sometimes think Indian people are mad. I have a boy who works for me - I is a good boy, but he doesn't like working. Like some English people, he thinks if he worked a 40-hour week he's worked very hard. I work about 100 hours a week.

"At 5.30am my head boy arrives and goes into the garage and counts out the paper for the paper rounds. The shop opens at 6am. There are always people waiting.

"I have breakfast at 8am - two toast and some Bombay mix. I eat Indian food, crisps and fizzy drinks like my children. was one of the first Indian men in Ashford. Sometimes people call us 'Paki bastards' but not often. Bricks have been chucked through the window. But it's not personal. We have shutters now.

"At 8.15am the school kids come in and spend their dinner money. The biggest problem with them is fags. We've clamped down a lot because I've been told off by the police and the school. My children go to private school. I want them to do better than me. One daughter wants to be a doctor, the other a skin specialist. Traditionally the son takes over the father's business, but I want him to do something better. My wife won't let them slack about. She says: 'Look he's hard your father works. I expect you to be the same.'

"From 9am I run the post office and the other staff run the shop. I have lunch 1pm - vegetables and rice - and am back in the post office at 1.30pm. I break at 5p so we can eat our main meal together, or then work until the shop shuts at 7.30pm. In the evenings I do my paper work. I never in bed before 11pm. My only break is on Sunday afternoons when I play with the children. We go ice skating or play badminton.

"I must be getting old because I find it long hours hard. We don't need any more money and I am thinking that if I had a manager, I could take life easy. But what else could I do? This is all I know."

Sally William

Tel: 0171 293 2222

classified • personal

Fax: 0171 293 2

## Independent Hearts

Replies should be addressed to the relevant box number.  
c/o The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

Place your advertisement in

# INDEPENDENT HEARTS

The Independent Way to Meet New People

By placing an advertisement in The Independent Hearts section of *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday* you will immediately be in contact with over 1.6 million readers.

The cost for your advertisement, published in the first available editions of the Saturday "Weekend" and Sunday "Real Life" sections is just £3.00 per line including V.A.T. (Box No is an additional £10.00, please cross here if you do not require a Box No.)

Simply write your advertisement in the spaces below and fill in the coupon - Minimum 2 lines. (N.B. A character is a letter, a number, a punctuation mark and a space between words)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone (daytime): \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

All advertisements must be prepaid. Cheques should be made payable to Newspaper Publishing Plc or debit card.

☐ Access ☐ Visa ☐ Amex ☐ Diners Club ☐ card expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_

Card no: \_\_\_\_\_

Send all advertisements to:-  
Independent Hearts: The Independent, 19th Floor, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL.  
Telephone: 0171 293 2347 Fax: 0171 293 2305

This offer is only open to private advertisers. Trade enquiries are welcome on the above telephone number.

**zygosis** the intimate together...

THE PROFESSIONAL PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY

Personal people don't meet their ideal partner in their career social circle. That's where Zygosis can help. We are highly selective, operate discreetly, are confidential, discreet and produce results. We look forward to your call.

LONDON 0171 499 0979 0111 556 5459 01633 30000 0191 261 2224  
SCOTLAND 0113 245 6767 0990 142078 01225 838514 01253 691200  
NORTH WEST 0161 254 6767 0990 142078 01225 838514 01253 691200  
SOUTH WEST 0113 245 6767 0990 142078 01225 838514 01253 691200

drawing down the moon

THE THINKING PERSON'S INTRODUCTION AGENCY

"the agency people rave about"

Adam & Eve Mews, Kensington  
0171-937 6263

ABIA code supported by Office of Fair Trading. Est 1982

**HAYDN WELLESLEY**

Professional personal introduction agency. We are highly selective, operate discreetly, are confidential, discreet and produce results. We look forward to your call.

52 Upper Brook Street, Manchester  
0161 275 7284 Weekdays 9.30 - 7.30  
Weekends 0161 686 2967 or 01628 770583

**Sara Eden**

"A file of grateful letters and a wall full of Wedding Photographs"

Insurance on: Sunlight  
London 0171-499-9626  
Windsor 01753-830350

JOIN IN OR JUST LISTEN

**Pirechat**

0891 122 840

"1ST ENCOUNTERS"

Looking to widen your social horizons or meet your ideal partner?

How have your first encounters been to date?

Call 0402 621119 and make this a lasting encounter!

**GOD CONNECTIONS**

There's a 40% connecting. Let God Connections reveal the excitement of meeting and enjoying the company of new interesting people.

Unpretentious, warm and friendly single people with integrity and humour, keen to broaden horizons, make new friends and develop honest, sincere relationships.

Put yourself into your life with GOD CONNECTIONS 01253 554084

Personal, caring, selective introductions and small group social events in Oxfordshire, Bucks, Berks, Herts and also in Warwickshire, Worcestershire, Northants on 01295 696534

**THE DATING BUREAU**

0891 444 089

**Classified Advertising**

continues overleaf.

**SIRIUS**

The Intelligent Person's Introduction Agency

The Local service operating Nationwide for the intelligent, articulate and well educated. Join the Largest agency with personal interviews and BS 5750 24 hour information Freephone 0800 374451 brochure line

Ask for your Free CD or Tape

London 0171 251 8123 North West 0161 222 3908 East 0113 245 6767  
South West 01753 830350 Yorkshire 01904 611021 East Midlands 0115 954 1113  
Freephone 0800 374451 Office hrs 9.30am to 7pm 7 days/week

**Verve**

EXCLUSIVE INTRODUCTIONS FOR DISCREET PROFESSIONALS IN YOUR AREA

0800 413 473

**INTRO 45 PLUS**

Exclusively for the older generation. Gentlemen - Does chivalry still live? Polish your armour and saddle the white horse. Lovely mature ladies are waiting to be rescued from the dragon of loneliness.

0181 466 9533

**NOTICE TO READERS**

The Independent cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisements on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will.

When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

**THE DINNER CLUB** (Est. 198). The nation's only countryside dining club for unattached professional/business people aged 50+. Tel: (01244) 350537. Business opportunities (01244) 548816.

**UK'S BEST SINGLES MAGAZINE**. Free details + Bargain Offer: Person to Person (Dept MD), PO Box 4, Gillingham, Kent ME8 5BN.

**INTRODUCTIONS/EXCITING EVENTS**. Bedford 070 550, Cambridge 328 225, N. Herts 01767 041 259, Peterborough 311 747.

**LONDON'S PROFESSIONALS**. JOHN Synergy. Months free trial. 24-hour helpline 0161 330 5307.

**INTERESTING WARM** 40, 50's sought by E to share love of living, countryside, walking, med, history/architecture, music, candlelight. SW Herts borders. Box No 1: 1048.

**MALE, 30, SARDONIC**, and shy, seeks football-tolerant female to change Walsingham. London/Surrey area. Box No 1: 1050.

**Dateline**

"The U.K.'s large agency..."

For free details in shorthands call 01869 324 171

**CULTURED 50'S MARRIED** man seeks attractive young woman for intimate friendship. Discreet, adventuresome. Can respond, experienced 1 step, a well stocked mind, wisdom, a sense of fun. G London. Box No 1: 1052

**CONNECTIONS** is the friendly, that puts single Christians in touch with each other. Don't ring 0181 906 4467.

**ARTIST YOUNG 51**, Ukranian, Prokash, Vanda, Tel: 01244 350537. Good for fun, QUALITY, W.L.T.M. c intelligent lady, 35-48. Lutter. Box No 1: 1054.

**WORLD TRAVELLER** 36, GOSH, NBS. Grounded by 24 business success, into Th Outdoors, GFW, seeks soul to enjoy Life now and future etc. Box No 1: 1054.

**A ZEST FOR LIFE?** Are you a male, confident and independent? I love theatre, walking and conversation. I've got great taste, a good figure. London N Box No 1: 1056.

**BRIGHT CREATIVE HAPPY** - vast with enquiries, original, passionate mind, medium 1 and build; health consultant 40's, comfortably solvent, 5 step based women, enjoys 1 of interests including cooking, good food, quality cinema, reading, company, travel, deep case. Come and share my life. Write and enclosing a photograph to Box No 1: 1058.

**ARTY BUSINESSWOMAN**, seeks male for company, support. Age 32-46, tall, single, not smelly. Packed communication essential, in the arts & outdoors you great. Northingham, Leics. Box No 1: 1058.

**AVERAGE PROF WOMAN** 40's seeks a very average man in 50's 70's in one cranks companion for company, no sex. PO Box 2238 London N12.

**LONDON'S PROFESSIONALS**. Synergy. Months free trial. 24-hour helpline 0161 330 5307.

# shopping

# shopping

supplied by Jim White, (feature-writer on this paper and author of *Are You Watching, Liverpool?*) and checked by the *Newswatch* reporter and Jeffrey Archer biographer, Michael Crick ("the world's greatest expert on United", according to Frame).

Frame then spent three months on top of an eight-by-four plywood drawing-board. In his words, he was "perched like a gnome on a cushion, surrounded by scraps of paper, reference-books, dictionaries, pens, rulers and bottles of liquid paper. Only I know where everything is. When I die, someone's going to have a hell of a job sorting everything out."



... of the house. "Painting work, but not anoraky

It is true that in among the morass of facts, many gems shine out. Take the Family Tree's comments on United's signing of Bryan Robson in 1981: "For the

next 12 years he never put a foot wrong for United; the only mistake he made was the curly perm he sported the day he signed."

Frame's next projects are Family Trees of the England team since 1966 and his beloved Luton Town FC - "the soot in the atmosphere always created a fog at Luton, but they were my very first heroes".

Frame has thought about turn-

ing himself into a (thatched) cottage industry. "I'd love to have a team of monks working to my instruction while I sit and have a joint," he says. "But it doesn't work like that, because my style is so idiosyncratic. If I had a team replicating my work, it'd become too train-spotterish. I interviewed Leonard Cohen once and he told me he's taken some territory."

Photograph: John Lawrence


The Manchester United Family Trees are available from BDP, 50 Margaret St, London W1N 8LS. Each poster (1955-75 or 1975-95) costs £10 plus £1.50 p&p. Credit card orders on 0171-636 1665.

Fax: 0171 293 2505

**classified** • independent traders, uk travel

**Holid**  
see  
page

**G**

 COLOUR PICTURE  
**RING**  
**(01455) 852222**  
**QUOTE E360 (24 Hrs)**


**SOUTH HAMPS. 3 bed hse, water-**  
**front, all summer. (01548)**

**20873 (24hrs)**

**DITTTSHAM. Charming**  
**house. Log fire, of**  
**outland, views. Sips 2-**  
**6047988.**

**ST. IVES. Unique self**  
**to Portmeor Beach. Ste**

**G**




COLORADO  
**RING**  
(401455) 852222  
QUITE E 360 (24 Hrs)

**SOUTH HAMPS.** 3 bed hse, water-  
front, all summer. (01548)

**DIITISHAM.** Charming  
house. Log fires, 6  
outd. views. Sips 2-  
6074988.

**ST. IVES.** Unique self  
finishing beach. Sea  
view. (01548)

**G**

 COLOUR PICTURE  
**RING**  
**QU14551 852222**  
**(01455) E 360 (24 Hrs)**

**SOUTH HAMPS. 3 bed hse, water-**  
**front, all summer. (01548)**

**20873 (24hrs)**

**DITTTSHAM. Charming**  
**house. Log fire, of**  
**outland, views. Sips 2-**  
**0074988.**

**ST. IVES. Unique self**  
**to Portmeor Beach. Ste**

**Over at & Jean 1297**  
**NR 10000**  
 finished cottage, sleeps two, on edge of health. From £150 per week. Tel 01306 683821.

**RIVER DART, ex accomm. for up to 12. (18003) 722 352**

**CORNISH WELCOM COTTAGES.**  
 Potts, linen, fuel inc. Many less than £150 per week Oct-April. Brochure 01756 732201

**BODMIN MOOR.** Idyllic secluded cottage. Log fire. 4 poster. 01208

**Suffolk**

**SPACIOUS, COMFORTABLE**  
equipped country house  
days at 31/3, £180 (p)

**Sussex**

**SEDLISCOMBE, Nr**

**Holid**  
see  
page

**3 Archers Court, Stukeley  
Road, Huntingdon,  
Cambridgeshire PE18 6  
Telephone 0480 454828**

580894. Every luxury. (0171) 607



er  
vel  
ys  
0.

## How a modest Italian ornament became a priceless masterpiece by Michelangelo

This week, if you believe Dr Kathleen Weil-Garris Brandt, the world recovered a great treasure. The circumstances were delightfully cinematic. For years the gloomy lobby of a Fifth Avenue mansion has contained a small stone sculpture of a cupid with a quiver in the shape of a lion's paw. The object was in plain view but so familiar that it was, effectively, invisible. One day, though, as Dr Brandt was passing, the lobby had been illuminated for some special event. Peering through the glass, she saw the sculpture brightly lit for the first time. One can imagine the scene as an Annunciation, a beam of golden light bearing down on the sacred object. Dr Brandt's heart beat a little faster. The *contrapposto* of the back, the tightness of the curls, the model-

ling of the lion's paw... surely this was no humble piece of garden statuary. After further research, and with much trepidation, she advanced the theory that the work was actually by Michelangelo. New York had lost a modest Italian ornament and gained a priceless work of art - a brilliant trade by anybody's standards.

Dr Brandt has found support among other art historians. Our own Dr Nicholas Penny, of the National Gallery, weighed in on her side, telling the *New York Times* that "The more one looks at it, the more it grows on one, not only as a remarkable work of art but something that makes sense as a work of Michelangelo."

What exactly does it mean, though, to "make sense" as a work of Michelangelo? It is an impor-

tant question, as Dr Penny has good reason to know, because the last art-world fuss over the authenticity of a Michelangelo came much closer to home. It arose over the reattribution - the promotion, in effect - of the National Gallery's *Entombment of Christ*. The case against was put by an enraged Professor James Beck: "To make the *Entombment* a Michelangelo," he said, "diminishes the creativity of Michelangelo. It means placing a third-rate work at his doorstep. That is a violation of his integrity." (To have 20th-century academics presume what your integrity consists of might be considered a larger violation still, but let that pass.)

Integrity is important to us, and has been for centuries. The quality has another name, too, and one



THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

rather more pertinent to these questions of artistic provenance - "authenticity". And here we arrive at a paradox. In its larger moral sense, authenticity (as applied to people or their behaviour) contains some notion of intransigence or resistance to the smoothing impulse of society. We detect authenticity in humans by those features in them which don't conform to pattern. In art history, however, quite the opposite is true. Authenticity that "makes

sense" depends on an essentially artistic finish if it cannot come up with incontrovertible paperwork. In the absence of a signature (and, what's more, a signature which has several more signatures to vouch for its authenticity), we rely on something more like plausibility or coherence.

In *Sincerity and Authenticity*, Lionel Trilling wrote that "the work of art is itself authentic by reason of its entire self-definition: it is understood to exist wholly by the laws of its own being, which include the right to embody painful, ignoble, or socially unacceptable subject-matters. Similarly the artist seeks his personal authenticity in his entire autonomy." This may not be how Michelangelo thought of the matter (Trilling is speaking specif-

ically of a 19th-century habit of mind), but it is, to some degree, how we now think of Michelangelo, in his isolated and heroic creativity. And as he isn't around to clarify exactly what it is to be authentically Michelangelesque, we must do the work for him. Dead people don't have the luxury of "autonomous".

The result can be decidedly odd - the careful creation of a new being, incapable of error or even the labour of false starts. It has happened to other artists, too. In the past 90 years, we have lost more than half the Rembrandts that were in existence at the beginning of the century; not through some inconceivable carelessness on the part of curators, but because the Rembrandt Research Project has doggedly hacked away

at what it considers to be false attributions. They have relied mostly on stylistic considerations (just as Dr Brandt did with her Michelangelo), effectively removing "lesser works" from the corpus. As they proceed, Rembrandt becomes a greater and greater artist and, in some respects at least, less and less humanly interesting.

Clearly the procedure works both ways - if a work of art is elevated to the corpus, it is honour-bound to live up to its new estate. This sometimes takes diligence, as with the world's fresh scrutiny of the New York cupid. "The more one looks at it," Dr Penny said, "the more it grows on one." But would anyone have looked so hard or seen so much if that new and glamorous authenticity had never been advanced?

## Charmer, charlatan, patron, genius

Diaghilev was the century's most flamboyant fixer and artistic visionary. A major new exhibition tries to get the measure of the man. By Paul Taylor

Sergei Pavlovich Diaghilev (1872-1929) had a badger-stripe of white in his dark hair, giving him a look of Susan Sontag and *Bride of Frankenstein*. In the portraits of the great Russian impresario that you find dotted around "Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes" at the Barbican, this feature (which earned him the nickname "Chinchilla") is somewhat easier to spot than evidence of the formidable charm to which his contemporaries made ritual reference.

"He could charm a dead man to life," wrote the English showman, CB Cochran, and that can't be much of an exaggeration, given the range of Diaghilev's magnetism and persuasive powers. By the time he founded the Ballets Russes in 1911, he had already organised the 1906 exhibition of Russian art at the Paris Salon d'Automne, the 1907 concerts of Russian music (which introduced Chaliapin, Rachmaninov and Rimsky-Korsakov to Paris audiences), and treated the world to the glories of *Boris Godunov*. In the two seasons of 1909 and 1910 he had gone on - despite the curious fact that he was initially no enthusiast of the form - to make ballet the vehicle for his vision of the *Gesamtkunstwerk*, a synthesis of music, painting and movement in the totally integrated work of art. In *Petrushka* (1910), the dance drama about the puppet with human feelings, he had supervised the supreme example of what he was aiming for. The circle of talent with which he had surrounded himself was already such a roll-call of the rarefied that any future film version of his life would be bound to run into acute dialogue difficulties: "Could you just hold on a sec, Benois, old chap, I've got Stravinsky on the other line. Apparently, Nijinsky's throwing a wobbly. No, I said Nijinsky, not Strav. Well, bang goes brunch with Proust."

There's a caricature by Pavel Sheerbov which shows Diaghilev on a stool in homely shirt and blouse literally milking Princess Tenisheva, his *World of Art* sponsor, who is represented as a cow. To finance his projects, the impresario was continually forced to make overtures to wealthy, titled types. Diaghilev's seasons tended to be critical smashes but financial failures. *The Firebird* was no *Starlight Express*, a gleaming example of that process in reverse.

The point about the cartoon, though, is that it's a rare instance of Diaghilev, the consummate operator, depicted in activity. The vast bulk of the images here - including the famous Leon Bakst portrait of him with his old nanny in the background - give you scant inkling of the man's drive and dynamism. They recall, rather, Osbert Sitwell's marvellous description of him in *Great Morning*: "When he was preoccupied, his massive head, with a nose of the flat, not aquiline, Russian type, had something of a Velasquez dwarf's air of solemn pathos and listless fatality." But what of the theatre he masterminded? Does the energy of that come across? It would indeed be an ironic fate for productions that strove to bring the arts into a vital synthesis, if, in separating out their elements, an exhibition were to let the life leak away. The current show has tried to guard against this by employing the designer, Paul Dart, to throw a theatrical atmosphere round the exhibits. This works best in the extraordinary installation on the lower level where - in an effect that is like looking down a long, magical tunnel of fairy-tale grottoes - a succession of Bakst and Benois stage designs (to *Cleopatra*, *Petrushka*, *Scheherazade* etc) open out on to each other, pulling you in to examine the relevant objects (costumes, posters, props, statuary) housed in the spaces between. With their "oriental" subject matter, exotic decor and revolutionary palette of overwhelmingly rich, sensual shades, these designs would make a stage buzz with vibrancy before a dancer stepped anywhere near it.

Compared to the drama of the designs - notably Bakst's costume-design paintings which demonstrate his phenomenal knack of presenting dress as the intoxicated extension of emotion rather than as just so much coloured fabric - the actual costumes in their glass cases seem a little faded and inert. Not that there is any music for them to come alive to, since, although these ballets boast scores by Stravinsky, Debussy, Ravel, Rimsky-Korsakov et al, a decision has been taken that the exhibition is best perambulated in silence.

There's a puzzling omission among the costumes. "Nijinsky appeared at the Imperial Theatre in the tightest tights anyone had ever seen [in fact, an athletic support padded with handkerchiefs and little else]," remarked Stravinsky of the dancer's 1911 performance as *Albrecht in Giselle*, where he refused to appear before the audience in the discreet, Renaissance-style outfit Benois had designed. You could argue that the bandage-like substitute he insisted on sporting is one of the more pivotal



undergarments in cultural history, since it led to Nijinsky's dismissal from the Imperial Theatre and to the creation of the Ballets Russes. Diaghilev, who had hitherto merely borrowed Russian artists for his Paris seasons, now exploited the situation to found his own independent company and to bind his lover Nijinsky ever closer to him. More than a storm in a teacup, then, and I think that, assuming it hasn't been paved to bits, we could have been granted a glimpse at this historic object.

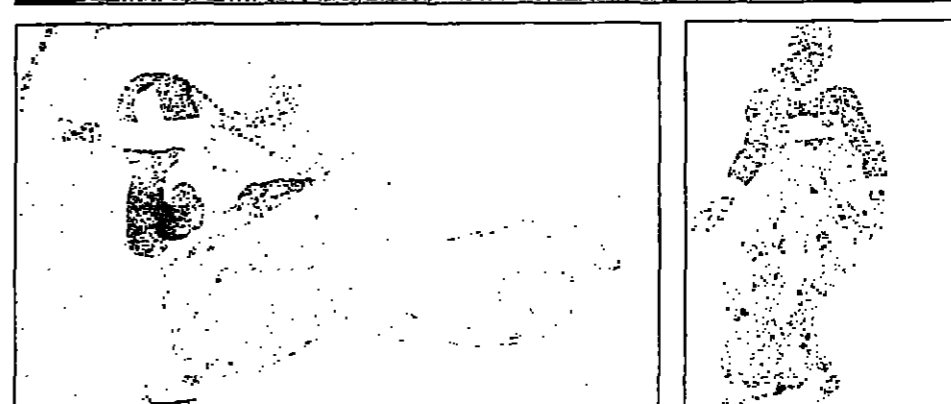
The cut-off point for the exhibition is the outbreak of the First World War, with Diaghilev and his troupe stranded away from their homeland and scattered in Europe and the US. Ahead of the impresario lay a further 15 years of achievement and the decision to look to the European avant-garde (notably the Cubism of Picasso) rather than back to Russia for design inspiration. But renewed interest in Diaghilev in his post-Communist homeland has meant that pre-Revolutionary items can now be brought over for the first time, and the exhibition is keen to emphasise the enduring Russian influences on his art up to that date.

The value of the early sections is that they establish a sense of the culture from which Diaghilev sprang, introducing you to such notable forerunners of the impresario as Savva Mamontov (1841-1918), a wealthy industrial-

ist and patron who founded an arts colony on the Abramsevo estate, a successful ceramics workshop and a loss-making but highly esteemed private opera company in Moscow. While the scenic department of the Imperial Theatre churned out standard-issue glades, lakes and palaces, Mamontov's company saw design as a painterly challenge and an opportunity to revitalise national culture. His was an example, you feel, not wasted on Diaghilev.

It's to be hoped that when the promised exhibition of the remaining years is mounted, it will be as accommodating to the complicated legacy of Diaghilev, whose company promptly folded on his death in 1929, as this show has been to what shaped him and to the St Petersburg intellectual circles in which he made his first impact. "I am, first, a great charlatan, though with dash," he had written to his stepmother in 1895, "second, a great charmer, third, cheeky, fourth, a person with a lot of logic and few principles, and fifth, someone afflicted, it seems, with a complete absence of talent. I think I've found my true vocation: to be a patron of the arts. For that I have everything I need except the money. *Mais ça viendra...*" He could have added that, sixth, he was clairvoyant.

Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes is at the Barbican Centre, London EC2 (0171-638 8891) to 14 April



Clockwise from left: Portrait of Diaghilev with his nanny by Leon Bakst (State Russian Museum, St Petersburg); Alexandre Benois' set design for *Petrushka's* room in (Bolshoi Theatre Museum, Moscow); and Bakst's costume designs for the Golden Negro (right) and an Odalisque (left) in 'Scheherazade', 1910 (Private collection)

### Perspectives

The Prince of Wales' imaginative vision for the millennium - read the facts in the magazine that broadens the architectural debate

NEW AND ENLARGED 100-PAGE issue on sale now at newsagents  
To receive a copy direct, send a cheque/PO for £3 (payable to Perspectives) to:  
PERSPECTIVES, Vauxhall, ROAD 188  
24-hour Credit Card Order  
22 HOTLINE 01704 63 30 33

## GÖTTERDÄMMERUNG

WAGNER

'Nothing but a triumph'

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE 27 FEBRUARY • 5 MARCH • 12 MARCH • 19 MARCH

THE ROYAL OPERA ROYAL OPERA HOUSE • 0171-304 4000



**RIVERDANCE WILL RETURN**  
NEW SEASON 16 MAY - 31 AUGUST  
Current season ends 10 February

Aibhann Productions Ltd  
by Simon Byrne  
with EBF and  
7th Street  
presents

**RIVERDANCE**  
- THE SHOW -

"DANCE DOES NOT OFTEN GET SO GOOD"  
"ELECTRIFYING, A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS"

THE NEW LUXURIOUS  
Labatts APOLLO  
DANCE HALL  
Queen Caroline Street, London, W6

CREDIT CARD HOTLINES: (ALL 24HR PLUS 60¢ FEES)  
BOX OFFICE: 0171 416 6022  
0171 420 1000 • 0171 344 4444  
0171 240 0771

PREVIEW THURS 16 MARCH 7.30PM, 9.30PM, 11.30PM, 12.30PM, 1.30PM, 3.30PM, 5.30PM, 7.30PM, 9.30PM, 11.30PM, 12.30PM  
TICKETS £18.50, £20.50, £22.50, £25.50, £28.50, £30.50, £32.50, £35.50, £38.50, £40.50, £42.50, £45.50, £48.50, £50.50, £52.50, £55.50, £58.50, £60.50, £62.50, £65.50, £68.50, £70.50, £72.50, £75.50, £78.50, £80.50, £82.50, £85.50, £88.50, £90.50, £92.50, £95.50, £98.50, £100.50

Available on CD, Cassette & Video  
NEXT PRODUCTION AT LABATT'S APOLLO DANCE HALL, 16 MARCH 1996

## arts reviews

## TELEVISION

Paul Merton in... (ITV)

Jasper Rees propounds the novel theory that comedy is, in fact, the new opera

In *Dead Funny*, Terry Johnson's recent West End hit, four bores hold a wake for Benny Hill. The theory proposed by the play, and implied in the title, is that comedy cannot survive resurrection. On the principle that an old joke is any joke told more than once, Johnson derides the anorak instinct to dig up classic sketches and parade them anew. It's in accordance with this theory that modern comedy has come to be known as the new rock'n'roll, sending forth bratish new stars and exciting trend-spotting arts pages to increase its quota of column inches.

Now *Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's...* has come along to test this theory. The project, in which Merton plays the parts originally written for Tony Hancock, proposes comedy as the new opera, with a fixed repertoire of classic libretti and arias.

Merton has already given the BBC his idiosyncratic PhD on vintage comedy, so this would appear to be the next logical step: an archaeological dig for yesteryear's laughs, with Merton as chief shoveller. He is both well and ill equipped for the task. He knows the material backwards, but sometimes he might get more laughs if he said it backwards. Despite positioning himself as a keeper of the flame, he's also television's most accomplished improv comedian. Never very good at making other people's lines his own, almost all his best work is done without a script.

In other words, his generous instincts are not in doubt, but his ability to act is. He has a measure of Hancock's uppity menace but, with a volume control that goes no lower than nine, none of his pathos. It could easily be claimed that this is irrelevant, but if comedy even by writers as brilliant as Ray Galton and Alan Simpson is to have a shelf life, it needs to erase the memory of its premiere. Because he died before the days when every programme was kept for posterity, there is a bit of case to be made for modernising Hancock. In principle, though, it looks a heretical undertaking.

The first *Half Hour* for revival was *Twelve Angry Men*, in which Merton played the chief foreman who tries to persuade the jury of a plainly guilty criminal's innocence. The script itself is still in goodish nick ("Does Magna Carta mean anything to you? Did she die in vain?"), and the professional stereotypes on the fringes have not appreciably aged in 30 years. The only regrettable sections have been inserted to give it an updating tweak. References to Rumpole and public-utility fatcats are harmless enough, but the *OJ Simpson* joke was there simply for texture; an equivalently limp line wouldn't have sullied the text first time round.

*Dead Funny*, incidentally, quotes the last lines Galton and Simpson ever wrote for Hancock, in which he means that after he's gone all he can expect is "a few daffodils in a jar". This venture will make his memory ever fonder. As for Galton and Simpson, it makes them the butt of their own joke.

## THEATRE Slaughter City, RSC Pit, London

Naomi Wallace's blood-stained account of American industrial relations offers large dollops of symbolism, but no slice of life. By Paul Taylor



Cod's co-workers, Brandon (Alexis Daniel) and Roach (Lisa Gaye Dixon), all victims of the Sausage Man

Photograph: Stuart Morris

You can't accuse Naomi Wallace of malingering in the one milieu. Her last couple of plays, for example, have transported us on Gulf War flashbacks (*In the Heart of America*) and to a boarded-up London house during the Great Plague of 1665 (the excellent *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*). *Slaughter City*, now premiered in Ron Daniels's Pit production, deposits us in a US abattoir, designed to offer a symbolic microcosm of the pernicious relations between capital and labour. The set is as bloody as a butcher's apron. Carousels of realistic-looking carcasses swing by on hooks. Innards are rummaged out. Gristle is sliced from bone. These must have been testing times for any herbivores in the RSC's scenic and props department.

But though the setting of her plays may be varied, a strain of repetitiveness can now be detected. In *In the Heart of America*, the confused ghost of a Vietnamese woman searched for the murderer of her three-year-old daughter in a world where, after US action in Panama, Grenada and Operation Desert Storm, parallel post-mortems were taking place. The implication, highly tendentious, was that all American wars are, at some level, the same: a repeat of the My Lai massacre.

*Slaughter City* applies that formula to the history of injustice, negligence and disaster in the field of American industrial relations. Here, the perplexed figure who wanders in from the past so as to point up the debateable theme of endless recurrence is Cod (a signally intense Owen Fouere). Her mother, a turn of the century textile worker, had had to jump to her death from a fire but

managed to save Cod, still in the womb, by making a last-minute pact with the Sausage Man (Robert Langdon Lloyd).

With his grinder turning disgusting refuse into profit, this figure emblematises capital, but he evidently has supernatural powers. The price of saving the child's life is that she become his "spark", to be sent wherever he chooses for ever. He seems to revel in Cod's resistance to him, "the labourer against my system! It's glorious, it's heroic. And we have all the time in the world..." To him, it's a game he thinks he can't lose; to her, it's like a recurring nightmare as, in male disguise, she's taken to be a witness-participant in one industrial horror after another.

*Slaughter City* ends with her breaking the cycle and taking effective action in the here and now. You may wonder, though, whether that inspirational close compensates for the drawbacks of giving the piece a cumbersome, far-fetched and confusing mythic element that raises more doubts than it resolves. Cod's co-workers are splendidly played by Lisa Gaye Dixon, Sophie Stanton and Alexis Daniel and there is, at times, despite an over-dosing on meat metaphors, a hard-edged particularity in the writing. I'd have preferred to find out more about their lives instead of being shown the pattern of which they are allegedly part. And that pattern is simplistic. The boss (Linal Haft) has a pet which is the single last surviving snail of its kind. I bet you can't guess what happens to it and him. Well, talk about asking for it.

Barbican, London EC2. Booking: 0171-638 8891, in rep

## CLASSICAL

Emerson Quartet / Barbican

They brought Bartok to a boil last year, but Beethoven fell flat. By Robert Cowan

Poised beneath a warmly coloured backdrop, the Emerson Quartet made piquant music of Beethoven's D major String Quartet, Op 18 No 3. It was a taut affair, alert to every modulation, consistently incisive and elegantly articulated. Furthermore, the Quartet's instruments enhanced the effect, though Philip Setzer's Lupot sounded rather brighter in tone than Eugene Drucker's Stradivarius. Setzer led the first half, swapping to second fiddle after the interval (ie, for the first "Razumovsky" Quartet) although if any one member warranted special praise, it was cellist David Finckel, a strong player with a full, vibrant tone beautifully sustained. Violist Lawrence Dutton was the most visibly demonstrative of the four, swaying to the rhythm of the phrase, while Drucker kept his eyes firmly on the music.

Nothing seemed left to chance, a wise decision given that tempos were generally swift, even a mite breathless. Beethoven marked his slow movement *Andante con moto*, meaning "don't dawdle". The Emersons took due note, but switching to their new Deutsche Grammophon CD of the piece – recorded two years ago but only just released – revealed a level of repose lacking from Wednesday's performance. The Scherzo, too, seemed rushed and, again, comparisons with the recording suggest impatience on stage. The F major Quartet is Op 18's strongest component and features an anguished slow movement that was inspired, we're told, by the burial-vault scene from *Romeo and Juliet*. It's marked "Adagio affettuoso e appassionato" but although the Emersons brought great visceral excitement to the music's more urgent episodes, there was no sense of danger, no necessary risk-taking: it was all too far from the edge. Likewise in the first "Razumovsky" Quartet where the hilarious Scherzo spins a dazzling sequence of musical one-liners and the Adagio cries its soulful confession. On one occasion, Drucker almost broke the barriers of propriety (that was during the latter half of the slow movement), but elsewhere I sensed the same predictable story of earnestness, accuracy and applied charm.

It seems palpably unfair to criticise playing that, if taken at face value, has so much to offer – certainly in terms of polish, virtuosity and finesse. The Emersons are fine musicians: they have impeccable taste; they phrase intelligently and they make a beautiful sound. And yet, somehow, their Beethoven never caught fire, at least not on this first lap of their complete cycle. I could hardly believe that here was the group that brought Bartok to the boil last summer (QEII). Perhaps Beethoven poses them a more personal challenge; perhaps they need to cast off the formalities of stage performance and ease into private dialogue where, away from the public's gaze, they can "do the Beethovenian thing" without any inhibitions. But, of course, it's early days yet and they could quite easily loosen up for the rest of the series.

DICKIE  
FANTASTIC  
on the schmoose

## 'I'll tell you the best thing about Victorian satire – no subtlety'

"I'll tell you," says Samuel Alderton, "what isn't funny." "What?" I ask. "Paul Merton," he replies. "He's not funny. Neither is Monty Python, the Young Ones, and those so-called alternative comedians like Ben Elton and that bloody stupid Alexei Sayle. They aren't funny. It's all 'Thatcher' this, shout shout shout." "Not at all funny, no no," adds Samuel's wife, Melissa. "Shouting isn't funny. Yelling isn't amusing." "Out of all the contemporary comedians," concludes Samuel, "I'll tell you who the only funny ones are." "Who?" I ask. "The Goons," replies Samuel. "Now that's funny." "Yes," laughs Melissa.

"Ying Tong Yiddle I Po... Ha ha ha!" Samuel and Melissa Alderton are the founder members of LOVS – "Lovers of Victorian Satire" – a small group of like-minded people dedicated to bringing the joys of "this marvellous, marvellous, marvellous old art" back to the people. They perform their favourite songs and sketches at schools and festivals, and organise evenings in which they all sit around and laugh and shake their heads in wonder. Which is exactly what 25 of us are doing now, at a conference room at the Holiday Inn in King's Cross. "Listen to this," he says. "Listen to this... it's devastating."

He puts on a very old 78 recording of a man performing a song entitled "In Trinity Church I Met Me Doom", and we sit in silent awe. "In Trinity Church I Met Me Doom..." sings the man. "A Ra Ra A Ra A De De Deee," sing Samuel and Melissa in unison. "The missus hit me with a broom" sings the man. "A Ra Ra A Ra A De De Deee," sing Samuel and Melissa. "You see," says Samuel. "They didn't need to shout. They didn't need nastiness." "He's bein' a little nasty to his wife," I offer tentatively. "It's a joke," bellows Samuel. "It's all clean fun. Bloody political correctness. It's not like he's hitting her with a broom, is it now?"

"It's not wife battery," agrees Melissa. "I'll tell you the best thing about Victorian satire." "What?" I ask. "No subtlety," she replies. "No nuances. Nowadays it's all nuances and sub-texts. Bloody ridiculous. What are they? Funnymen, or university lecturers?" The high-spot of tonight's party is listening to Samuel and Melissa performing a sketch entitled "The Gentleman". "Excuse me," says Samuel. "Oui?" says Melissa. "My lady wife," says Samuel, "fell out of bed last night." "Ooh la la!" says Melissa. "She's so fat," concludes Samuel, "that she rolled herself back to sleep." There is a huge laugh.

"That joke can be traced back to 1895," whispers an aged man called Bob. "One hundred whole years ago." He gives his wife a wink. "Before even you were born. You see, our Victorian forefathers knew how to let their hair down, contrary to popular belief." "I've got a question," I say. "Why is he telling a policeman that his wife fell out of bed? You'd be done for wasting police time if you did that now. You'd probably be locked in a padded cell." "Well, that's the difference isn't it?" says Melissa. "The policemen were a lot more friendly in those days. Life was a lot more friendly." "I'll tell you who I blame for the

death of Victorian satire," says Samuel later, as the night reaches its end. "Who?" I ask. "Thatcher," says Samuel. "You sound like an alternative comedian," I say. "No, seriously," says Samuel. "When Thatcher said we should all get back to Victorian values, she was talking about discipline and silence during meals. That sort of thing. It gave the Victorians such a bad name. You know what Victorian values really were?" "What?" I say. "Having a bloody good laugh," says Samuel. "That's what. Having a bloody good time."



## KEY



## overview

Ben Jonson's classic comedy, a savage satire on human greed and sickness, in Trevor Lloyd's new adaptation for Graeae, Europe's leading theatre company for disabled actors.

## critical view

Paul Taylor was impressed. "A comic zest that is free from either sentimentality or brooding bitterness. An evening you won't forget in a hurry." "Proof, if any were needed that [disability] can be deployed with imagination and style," observed *Time Out*. "This is theatre at its most compelling. A classic has been made to speak with startling urgency and freshness," exclaimed the *Telegraph*.

## on view

Oval House, London (0181-582 7680) to Sun. Tues. Weds, West Yorkshire Playhouse (0113 244 2111); Thurs-Sat, Warwick Arts Centre (01203 524524).

## our view

A million miles away from special pleading. A tumultuous follow-up to the huge success of their production of *Ubu*.

THE PLAY  
FLESH FLYTHE FILM  
HEATTHE TELEVISION SERIES  
OUR FRIENDS IN THE NORTHTHE GIG  
BJORK

Michael "The Last of the Mohicans" Mann goes back to the streets (LA) with a couple of obsessives. Al Pacino as a smart, lonely cop and Robert De Niro as the leader of a gang of thieves.

Adam Mars-Jones was lukewarm. Even the action set-piece "doesn't make the pulse race". "Our old Hollywood friend, Zen Buddhism... how little human drama there is," groaned the *Financial Times*. "Heat applies the heat," approved the *Times*. "The most spectacular B-movie ever made," proclaimed the *Guardian*. "The best American film of the '90s. That good," declared *Time Out*.

On general release, cert 15.

Overly stylised, long (around three hours) and disappointing. Don't believe the hype.

Peter Flannery's nine-part saga of political and emotional corruption follows four friends over three decades from 1954, in other words, a star-studded biography of post-war Britain.

Thomas Sutcliffe found it "an uneven introduction [but] the best may be winnable yet." "Utterly enthralling... beautifully acted and smoothly directed," cheered the *Mail*. "Undeniably gripping," said *Time Out*. "Wallace and Gromit without the humour," opined the *Independent on Sunday*. "The acting was uniformly excellent," enthused the *Mail*.

on Sunday. "Excellent," declared the *Sunday Times*. 9pm BBC2, Mondays

Commissioned 14 years ago and twice cancelled, this 22m gamble, directed by Peter Martin

*Chuzzlewit*. James, "looks like it will pay off." The Icelandic superstar played a barnstorming tour with an impeccably chic support act, the Brooklyn String Quartet playing Shostakovich and friends.

Nick Coleman described it as "brilliant" and was tremendously impressed by her range and "startling passion." "What the show missed in traditional rabble-raising dynamics was more than made up for by Bjork's inventive and energetic style of projection," applauded the *Times*. "Her reservoirs of imagination set her apart from every

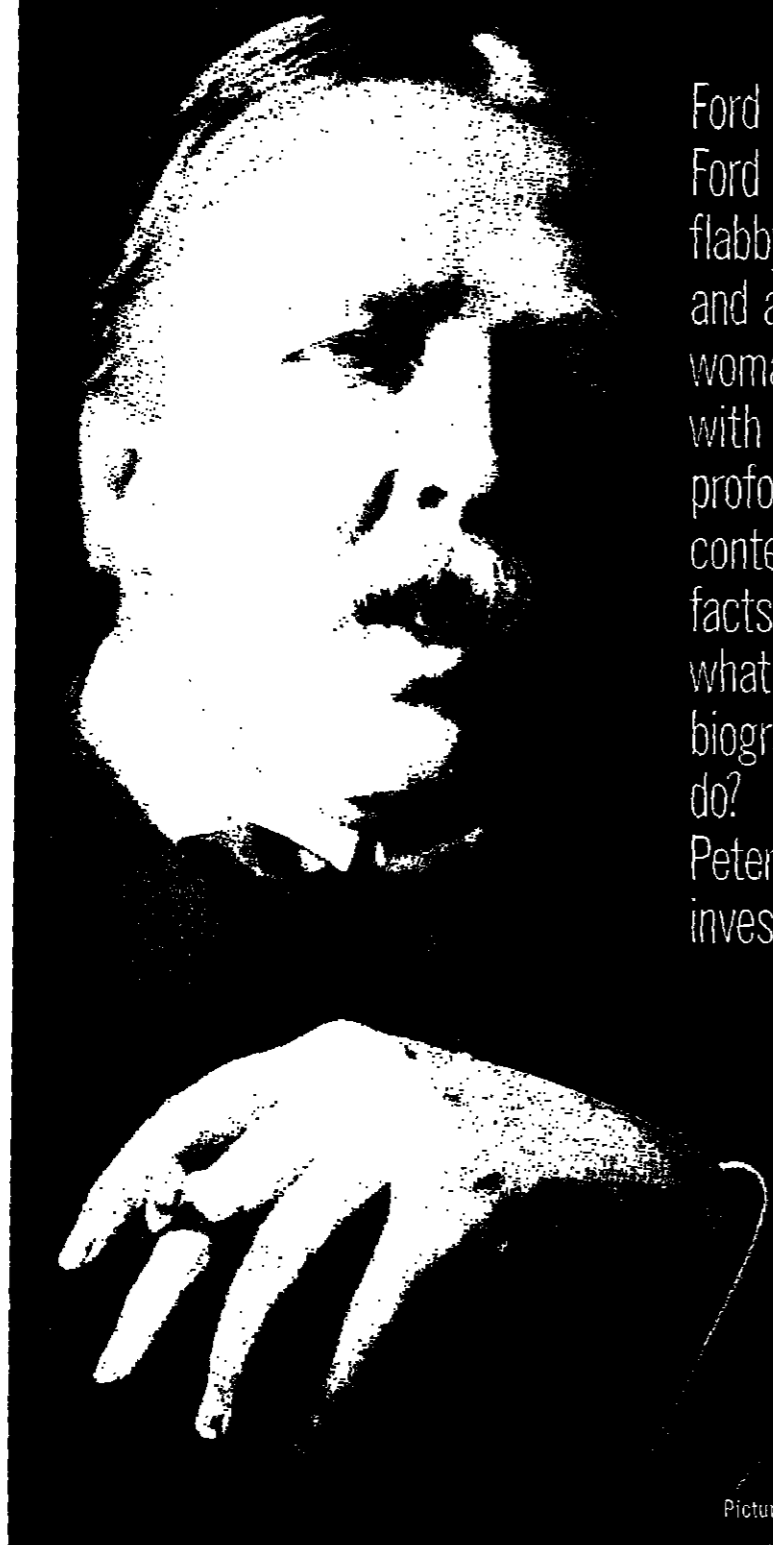
other star," marvelled the *Guardian*. It's over, but the CDs remain.

More a ritual than a pop concert, and why not?

JPY 100.150



# A passion for lying



Ford Madox Ford was a flabby giant and an unlikely womaniser with 'a profound contempt for facts'. So what's his biographer to do? Peter Parker investigates

Picture: Mansell Collection

Ford Madox Ford: A Dual Life Vol I: The World Before the War by Max Saunders, Oxford, £35

Ford Madox Ford wrote over 70 books, but few of them are much read or even remembered today. Posterity has agreed with him in judging his mastery little tragedy, *The Good Soldier*, and his quartet of novels about the First World War, *Parade's End*, his best work. The volumes of poetry, biography, criticism and topography have long since been cast into one of literary history's many oubliettes.

In this Ford has suffered the fate of many prolific Edwardian figures but the decline in his own literary fortunes was exacerbated by the character he presented in his memoirs. His reputation for boastfulness and mendacity is matched in this century only by that of Roy Campbell, and the standard biography (by Arthur Mizener, 1972) is as much a work of censure as of celebration. Max Saunders's vast critical biography – almost 500 closely printed pages, followed by a further 100 pages of notes – is in part a work of restitution.

Despite its length, the present volume deals only with Ford's life up until 1916, which leaves a great deal to come, not least *Parade's End*, his editorship of the *Transatlantic Review*, and his relationships with Stella Bowen, Janice Biala and Jean Rhys, whose novel *Quartet* – a distinctly Fordian tragedy of amatory entanglements and moral corruption – is based upon her involvement with him.

What we have here, therefore, is the story of Ford's dual inheritance (German intellectual on his father's side, English Pre-Raphaelite on his mother's), his literary apprenticeship, his contentious collaborations with Joseph Conrad, his editorship of the *English Review*, his unhappy marriage and the subsequent relationship with Violet Hunt, his war service and the writing and publication of *The Good Soldier*.

Saunders's excellent Introduction is a thought-provoking meditation upon literary biography in general and its particular application to Ford, whose mysterious love life (no one actually knows whether he married Violet Hunt), unreliability as an autobiographer, and complex "literary personality" make

him as slippery as a trout. "My aims," Saunders writes, "are to wonder at the kind of man Ford is as a writer; to ask how he became that writer; to investigate what happened while he was writing, as well as while he was not; to consider the implications for biography of Janice Biala's comment that 'His true private life and the one far more difficult to write ... is his inner life, the one that produced the books, not the gossip'; and to attempt something like a composite portrait of Ford as revealed in his books."

This ambition is largely realised, but those who know nothing of Ford's eventual "outer" life may have problems following its erratic course which, like that of a will-o'-the-wisp, flickers intermittently among the dense thickets of critical discourse.

According to Wyndham Lewis, Ford "was a flabby lemon and pink giant who hung his mouth open as though he were an animal at the Zoo inviting buns", but he seems to have had no difficulty attracting women, and married his first (and only legal) wife after spiriting her away from her obstructive parents.

There followed numerous affairs (probably including one with his sister-in-law); a succession of more or less scandalous partnerships; protracted, bitter and very public divorce proceedings; a brief spell in prison; persistent money problems; and frequent wrangles and fallings-out with friends and colleagues. Saunders demonstrates that Ford's work not only reflects this life but occasionally prefigures it: he would dream up the plot of a story or novel and then follow a similar course in his life.

Wilde's assertion that "life imitates art" could equally be applied to Ford, who was impatient of the distinctions between real and poetic truth. "I don't really deal in facts" he wrote in his first volume of memoirs, "I have for facts a most profound contempt." Saunders might have taken as his epigraph a passage from Wilde's essay "The Decay of Lying": "Lying and poetry are arts – arts, as Plato saw, not unconnected with each other and they require the most careful study, the most disinterested devotion."

It is the suspicion that Ford's devotion to lying was anything but disinterested that has caused his detractors to vilify him, but Saunders investigates the most contentious of Ford's anecdotes and concludes that ambiguity (one aspect of his "duality") explains much, while his favoured literary mode of "impressionism" leads naturally and fruitfully to a different sort of truth.

This is fine when one is dealing with literary memoirs, but not very helpful when one is trying to establish important facts. After rehearsing all the possible versions of the as yet undivorced Ford's "marriage" to Hunt, Saunders is obliged to admit that "it is all an impressionist haze". Following his subject's lead, however, he observes (quite rightly) that: "The evidence can't tell us conclusively what happened but it does say much about what Ford, Hunt, and their friends and acquaintances thought about it."

Biographies that champion their subjects are always heartening, but Saunders's detailed rebuttal of former theories is such that the reader frequently feels forgotten. Reading the book is rather like watching a particularly complicated trial from the public gallery, as Saunders painstakingly sifts the evidence and picks apart his predecessors' case for the prosecution. Furthermore, his laudable advocacy occasionally leads him to discard subtleties when a more obvious explanation is staring him in the face. For instance, of *The Soul of London* (1905) he writes: "the very term 'soul' – psyche – conveys a disconcertingly psychological approach to its subject". It is unlikely to have disconcerted anyone who had lived through the 1890s, a period that was almost literally soulful, and the titles of the other books in this trilogy, *The Heart of the Country* and *The Spirit of the People*, make *The Soul of London* sound almost like a cliché.

That said, where others have found fault, Saunders has discovered riches. The main achievement of his biography is to show the fascinating and productive interplay between fact and fiction, life and art, autobiography and impressionism.

All you need to know about the books you meant to read

by Gavin Griffiths



This week:

THE GOOD SOLDIER (1915) by Ford Madox Ford

Plot: "This is the saddest story I have ever heard," begins John Powell, the rich but dim American narrator. There are three other main characters: Florence, his wife, apparently an invalid incapable of sexual intercourse; Leonora Ashburnham, a Catholic of strong principles and astringent personality; and her husband Edward, ostensibly a gentleman of the old school cursed with a dicky heart. The quartet have muted fun for nine years on their regular holidays in Nauheim, a German spa town for the physically indisposed. Then, in 1913, the Ashburnhams bring with them their ward Nancy Rufford, and, inexplicably, Florence kills herself. Gradually, Dowell learns the truth: for nine years Florence, in the pink of health, has been enjoying an affair with Edward; Leonora has been monitoring his extramarital engagements from their inception. Florence kills herself because she realises Edward is getting steamed up about Nancy, who has just emerged from a convent education. Edward, appalled by his latest depravity, commits suicide. Nancy goes mad and Dowell nurses her, just as he nursed Florence. Leonora remarries and emerges triumphant.

Theme: "You may live with another for years and years in a condition of the closest daily intimacy and never know what goes on in your companion." Layer by layer, Ford reveals the mysteriousness of other people: individuals are frenetically driven by loneliness and lust but strive to appear buttoned-up and well-mannered. The "real" world dissolves into a series of peculiarly angled points of view.

Style: The story creeps out crabwise. Dowell changes his mind, tinkers with events, re-adjusts the reader's judgement. Ford invigorates his narrator's clichés with the injection of melodrama; the polished flatness of the prose mirrors exactly Dowell's sophisticated naivety.

Chief strengths: The tone is inextricably both pathetic and funny. Dowell's plight should evoke sympathy; but his baroque obtuseness and lack of self-reflection transform him into a clownish cuckold. Ford also destabilises the notion of character: Edward Ashburnham is an uplight gentleman farmer beloved by tenants and a potential child molester. Uncomfortable for him and the reader.

Chief weakness: Ford's compulsion to gild the lily in several coats of emulsion diminishes some of the final impact: only *Hamlet* has so many casually violent deaths.

What they thought of it then: 1915 was not an auspicious year for experimental fiction. Conrad, Ford's old chum, remarked with unhelpful elusiveness: "the whole vision of the subject is perfectly amazing".

What we think of it now: Too clever. "Ford is obstructed less by his defects than by the effectiveness of total ability" (V.S. Pritchett). Damned as "a minor masterpiece".

Responsible for: Graham Greene's *hommage*, the equally underrated *The End of the Affair*.

## Walking on eggshells

Sue Arnold's endearingly frank memoirs go beyond the personal. By Christina Hardyment

It wasn't until 1985, when Sue Arnold was in her mid-forties, that she plucked up the courage to explore the connections provided by her two Burmese grandmothers. The search for roots is as irrational and irresistible as salmon swimming thousands of miles to find the stream in which they were spawned. The trouble is that what is fascinating for the family genealogist may be of scant interest to the rest of us.

Those who go public with their family histories tend to be the famous (remember Germaine Greer's quest for the truth about her father, *Daddy, We Hardly Knew You*) or writers who feel that their origins seem to offer reflections of wider moment than the personal. The weakness of Arnold's book is that for too long we place her in the first category, though jibbing a little at the idea that a mere columnist should assume she is interesting

enough for us to want to read about her embarrassment at looking less than Anglo-Saxon, her ancient uncles in Dawlish and her mother's ill-fated attempts to keep her end up among the suburban snobs of North London.

But at least she is laudably unpretentious, even self-mocking. And Burma (though Arnold likes to fight the fact) has always had a galaxy of glamorous associations – General Slim, Neville Shute, Elephant Bill. So we bear with her, enjoying the swift and skilful pen portraits of newly discovered relations, the adventure of her mother's trek across Burma as a refugee (straight out of *A Town Like Alice*), increasingly sympathetic to the plight of the mixed-race child.

Being turned away from Fifties boarding houses with "colour bars" and having your five-year-old knees lashed with nettles was bad enough; but to have Sir

**A Burmese Legacy: Rediscovering My Family** by Sue Arnold Hodder, £17.99

Adrian Boulton complaining to the editor of the *Observer* in the Seventies about "wops" being sent to interview him must have been deeply humiliating.

Our patience is rewarded. For the book's strength is that, as Arnold gets into her stride, we realise that she is saying something very important indeed about the attitude we should be taking towards a country that deeply affected the lives of thousands of families in Britain (27,000 Allied soldiers died in the Burma campaign) and which is today balanced on a knife-edge between dictatorship and democracy.

Myanmar, as Burma is now called, is all set to be the latest of the glamorous far-away places lauded in holiday brochures – picturesque pagodas, the road to Mandalay, the Irrawaddy river. But it is a wolf in sheep's clothing, governed by a military dictatorship which is exporting teak and rubies hand over fist for private gain, and which has even sold native fishing rights to neighbouring countries. The tourist trails are hedged about with security guards; free speech is ill-advised. On her last visit, Arnold found her cousins suddenly naive; letters and presents went astray.

The change of name is a ruthless piece of public relations legerdemain: the generals seem to think that the books of tourists ripe for fleecing won't realise that this is the country in which university students were crushed in 1988 considerably more brutally than the Chinese students of



Arnold: laudably unpretentious

Tiananmen Square, and in which Noble Peace prizewinner Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy party won a landslide victory in 1990, was placed under house arrest for five years.

Even now, theoretically free, Suu Kyi and her supporters are walking on eggshells. Many have been murdered, but many more remain. "There are too many people behind us for us to fail," said one of Arnold's cousins, elected as an NLD MP in 1990. Free speech may have temporary

ly crushed in Burma but international protests and the big stick of economic sanctions have made it necessary for the military government to don at least the trappings of democracy in order to board the gravy train of international trade.

The NLD's survival depends on the impetus towards open government which has been effected by economic pressure and liberal world opinion. In this context, Arnold's endearingly frank fragment of autobiography could prove invaluable.

## Boneless frogs and spicy porcupines

Christopher Hirst samples the "most offensive sausage in the world"

Often the most interesting cookbooks are not the most practical. This is arguably true of the works of Elizabeth David and is certainly the case with Marinetti's *Futurist Cookbook*, which advocated luridly-dyed dishes garnished with a sprinkling of cogs and gears. While far from being totally impractical, *The Decadent Cookbook* fits into this category. (Not that Marinetti would have approved of it, even though one of his dishes is included. A vehement enemy of decadence, he damned spaghetti and other soft foods for their corrupting influence on the Italian character.)

Lucan and Gray, whose fruity monikers may strike some as being suspiciously apt, have concocted a fabulous and shocking assemblage. They begin with the Roman recipes of Apicius: roast dormice in honey and, rather more feasibly, squid stuffed with calves brains. (Any left-over brains can be mixed with rose-hips and custard for pudding.) Skipping a millennium, the authors move on to Antonio Ghislieri, otherwise known as the Grand Inquisitor of the Counter Reformation. Considering his torturous trade, you might expect that the selection from his kitchen would include rack of lamb and whipped cream. Instead there is boneless frog soup, spitted bear (minus the head) and spicy porcupine.

The rest of the book adopts a thematic approach. The authors first turn their attention to the subject of blood. Their sanguinary suggestions include Swedish black blood soup, several versions of *boudin noir* and a crimson tart made with blood oranges. The sombre topic of death inspires a unexpectedly vicious selection of dishes, ranging from gravadax (literally "grave" or "buried" salmon) to the delightful Victorian offering "Soles in Coffins" (fish and lobster lurking inside

a hollowed-out baked potato). In a section of unusual meats, it comes as little surprise that a recipe for "Manila Hot Dog" is just that ("chop off head, paws and tail"). *Entrécôte à la Bordelaise* turns out to be Rat in a Shallot Sauce. The authors take a distinctly unsentimental approach to endangered species, giving recipes for the "fewer than a dozen" surviving Japanese ibis, the Parrot Owl of New Zealand ("hunted to the point where it is almost extinct, so presumably it is rather tasty") and the Tasmanian Wolf, which has entirely disappeared apart from an occasional paw-print and therefore "provides the best candidate for that coveted 'last of the species' dish."

Perhaps the book's high point is the chapter on sausages, which includes the Swiss blue sausage (its singular appearance is explained by a 1903 ordinance of the Geneva Council which declared "that all sausages made with horsemeat should be dyed blue"), a medieval porpoise sausage and a black bear sausage. Some decadent bangers with a more conventionally porcine filling are *Presswurst* (containing pig's head and salted pork rind, it is described as "probably the most offensive sausage in the world") and a southern Italian monstrosity called *La nduja*. Demanding 70lbs of "lowest quality pig meat" and 10lbs of hot red peppers, this dish is "renowned for its capacity to

scour the arteries, purge the intestines and exhilarate the sexual organs".

Lucan and Gray have bolstered their arcane excavations with a selection of appropriately saucy literary passages "to be read aloud during dinner". It comes as a revelation that decadents, often presumed to be tremulous, Firbankian types, seem to possess such ferociously robust and apparently limitless appetites.

### NEW AUTHORS

PUBLISH YOUR WORK  
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED  
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Poetry, Drama  
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE INVITED  
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO  
MINERVA PRESS  
2 OLD BROMPTON RD, LONDON SW19 4NU

Royal Festival Hall  
on the South Bank



Fiction International  
Amy Tan · Edna O'Brien  
Mordecai Richler

The Times Literary Supplement Reading

Wednesday 7 February 7.30pm



Only London reading from Amy Tan, bestselling Chinese American author of *The Joy Luck Club*, on publication of her latest novel *The Hundred Secret Senses*. Candid tales of life, love and loss from celebrated Irish writer Edna O'Brien and dazzling feats of magical storytelling from Canadian novelist Mordecai Richler.

TLS

Box Office 0171 960 4242  
Queen Elizabeth Hall RPH, London SE1  
To join our Free Literature Events  
Mailing List call 0171 921 0906

# Street incredibility

It's the fag-end of the City boom. It's a Yank in London. It's a castle in Cricklewood. By Douglas Kennedy

Scott Marshall is a man with a phobia about his oesophagus. He doesn't trust it. It plays tricks on him. It wants him dead. You see, Mr Marshall has a problem when it comes to ingesting food. It tends to lodge in that alimentary canal between the pharynx and the stomach, threatening to asphyxiate him. Were he a sexual fetishist (of the lack of oxygen = heightened orgasm school of perversion), he would no doubt consider his constricted gullet something of a physiological bonus. But as he is a management consultant in the City, he simply regards it as a dangerous nuisance – and he recently suffered a moment of existential *tristesse* while crossing Blackfriars Bridge and chomping on a Mars Bar.

However, it's not just his oesophagus which is constricting Mr Marshall. His entire life is currently throttling him – he is having a bad attack of "dem thirtysomething blues".

On the surface, his existence looks as shiny and enviable as some testosterone-charged sports coupe. Of course, behind the lustreous surface lurks a less glittery underside. It is 1990, the venal glory days of the City are well and truly dead, and Scott – like every other financial whizzkid – is wondering when the downsizing axe is going to fall on his neck. His private life is a jumbled mess. He has a dying father, a psychotic girlfriend, a dubious management consultancy with a very dubious fourth division football club, and an all-enveloping sense of cultural displacement.

For Scott Marshall – the narrator of D.J. Taylor's *English Settlement* – is an American in London (albeit

English Settlement  
by D. J. Taylor  
Chatto, £17.99

one with an expatriate English mother who hasn't set foot on this island in years). And, like all expatriates, he suffers from a bad case of Mid-Atlanticism – of feeling precariously balanced between two cultures.

Mr Marshall also has another major predicament on his hands: he is the first American I've ever encountered in fiction who sounds like a supercilious by-product of the English public school system. Or, to be a little more blunt about it, he doesn't sound American at all. My credibility meter immediately entered the red zone when I encountered passages like this:

"My father was not altogether a subtle man, but in the matter of England he displayed a rare and wholly efficacious delicacy. Saturated in England and Englishness, albeit of a momentarily specialized sort, we questioned the incidental detail of this grand obsession rather than its wider architecture".

David Mamet beware – when it comes to awesomely accurate renderings of American *patois*, this Taylor guy is the *momentously specialised* business. And note the street-smart idiom he employs when describing Scott's arrival at his place of business: "Reaching reception with its clutch of toothy, well-groomed traffic, I flick my KLS pass at a seneschal and wait by unimpeded".

Riveting. Worthy of James Ellroy. And, of course, when I was doing Latin during my New York schooldays, we

were taught to greet all Central Park West doormen with the salutation: *Salve, seneschal!* (a seneschal for those of you who didn't benefit from a Yankee education, being "the steward or major domo of a medieval great house").

Then there's Mr Taylor's remarkable command of American socio-political nuance. Scott's racist southern grandfather voted Republican until Goldwater's defeat in 1964. How intriguing – as no southern redneck would have dared support the Republicans (the party of Lincoln, after all) until Ronnie Reagan came along. And then there's Scott's brother who sells timeshare apartments to movie stars in Montana. Benidorm-style timeshares in a state where the average movie-star ranch is 1500 acres? I love an author who does his research. As real estate *faux-pas* go, this is up there with: "And then I moved to London and rented a fabulous gothic castle in Cricklewood".

I could go on – because *English Settlement* is not simply riddled with fundamental inaccuracies; it is also street-dumb. Besides Mr Taylor's inability to make his narrator sound remotely American, the world Scott inhabits bears no relation to contemporary life.

If you set out to write a State of England/Between Two Cultures novel, the least you owe your reader is accurate reportage when it comes to workaday detail and the rhythms of speech. But, like so much bad literary fiction these days, *English Settlement* has no connection to life-on-the-street; rather, it is set in a preposterous Biba of preening and all-pervasive smugness.



Take that, resplendent in lion-skin wrap, metope-idi grin and grimal accessories. Anthony Powell's Hercules fights off the Hydra – a classic image of brute force, according to *The Hero: Manhood and Power* by John Lash (Thames & Hudson, £2.95). "Every contest between hero and monster suggests how the two must become entangled psychologically" muses Lash.



Just as a classic piece of women's fiction wins a major prize, we get positive discrimination. Emma Hagestadt sounds a warning

It's been a good year for literary women, particularly those living north of the Watford Gap. First the majestic Pat Barker made the journey down to the Guildhall to collect her Booker cheque for *The Ghost Road*; and this week, Yorkshire-born mother Kate Atkinson (younger and without the reassuring bosom) scooped up the 1995 Whitbread Book of the Year for her first novel, *Behind the Scenes at the Museum*. Both ladies are more likely to be found at Betty's Tea Room than schmoozing over Jack Daniels at the Groucho Club.

To those who complain that women have no place in the macho world of the Nineties novel, one could argue that at least Pat Barker won the Booker with a novel about men and war; whereas Atkinson's book is beyond any doubt high-octane "women's fiction". It concerns families, marriages, birth and death, all of it set above a pet shop in York. Nothing could be more intimate, provincial or riveting.

*Behind the Scenes* is like reading Margaret Forster on Vimto. It buzzes with peppy intelligence and unconventional good sense in its depiction of several generations of Yorkshire women in a family frustrated by bad marriages and bad luck. Atkinson writes with celestial cunning, and her meshing of Ruby's history with not only her mother's (the sour-faced Bunt) and with grandmothers and great-grandmothers, is the real triumph of the book.

But women haven't always been this lucky. In the last ten years, most of the big literary prizes (and most desirable cheques – £20,000 for the Booker, £21,000 for the Whitbread) have gone to

men. In the last ten years, female Booker winners have numbered only three – Penelope Lively in 1986, AS Byatt in 1990, Pat Barker last year – while the only female Whitbread laureate before Ms Atkinson was Joan Brady in 1993. In black and white terms, the boys have bagged £308,000, the girls £102,000.

With the launch this week of the "women only" Orange Prize for Fiction – £30,000 for the best English-language novel by a woman – the income prospects for literary ladies have taken a turn for the better. But since the Orange Prize is exclusively female, and will be judged by an all-women panel, its announcement has met with a predictable bray of disapproval. AS Byatt, for one, criticised the award for "ghettoising" women.

Perhaps the danger is that we shall start to think there is a ghetto called "women's literature", rather than a concept of "literature" that transcends gender. Women have indeed been under-represented in book prizes in the Nineties, but the reason for this may lie not in the macho prejudice of juries but in the zeitgeist: in the caution of publishers, in the lack of will among younger women authors to write literary fiction, in the extraordinary drift toward warlike and violent themes...

The Orange Prize may represent a clearing of the decks by women writers, a timely consideration of what fiction – by either sex – should be at the end of the century; but it's a reevaluation that needs careful monitoring. The Orange awards will apparently be known as "Bessies". Ms Atkinson's fictional Mum was called Bunt. We do not want to see "women's fiction" turning into the Bessie-Bunt school of modern literature.

## Paperbacks

Reviewed by Emma Hagestadt and Christopher Hirst



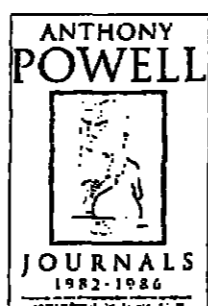
**A Fex of the Heart** by Jeremy Seal (Picador, £6.99)

Hats are the stepping stones of Turkish history, Seal suggests. After the abolition of the turban in 1826, the fex came to symbolise Turkey until it too was banned in 1925. In a marvellous *mélange* of travel and history, Seal pursues the lingering remnants of "fex culture" in order to probe the complex character of modern Turkey. Original and beautifully observed, the book reads like Chatwin with jokes.



**Sunrise with Sea Monster** by Neil Jordan (Vintage, £5.99)

Neil Jordan's third novel is as sensuous as any of his films. Locked together in a terraced house above the Irish Sea, father and son find unexpected release with the arrival of a young piano teacher and the outbreak of war. A quietly melodramatic book that catches German submarines, sea monsters and lost love in one tight net.



**Journals 1982-1986** by Anthony Powell (Heinemann, £9.99)

These jottings make you wish the novelist had kept a diary all his life. Along with much wispish wit, there is broad comedy as Powell, 80, tangles with the modern world. Mistakenly thinking Mrs Thatcher a fan of Apollinaire, he perplexes her by referring to the poet whenever they meet. Fascinated by genealogy, he muses about pop star Roger Daltrey, "a Lincolnshire name, connected with my mother's family, I think."



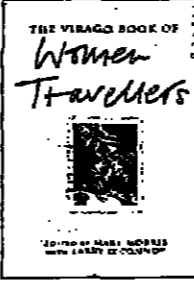
**Remembering My Good Friends** by George Weidenfeld (HarperCollins, £7.99)

Fresh from Nazi Vienna, George Weidenfeld compared entry into English society to stepping into a series of Turkish baths; but quicker than he could say "Vita Sackville-West", he was living it up in Fitzrovia, the Savoy and Oxfordshire. His fruitfully avuncular autobiography revels in encounters with the posh (The Longfords) and the good (The Pope).



**The Last Great Frenchman** by Charles Williams (Abacus, £12.99)

So intransigent during wartime exile that Churchill referred to him as "the beast of Hampstead", de Gaulle saw himself as France personified. By taking power in 1958, he "almost certainly saved the country from civil war". Charles Williams believes that he never forgave Britain for defeating Germany in 1898. This absorbing work reveals the introspective intellectual hidden behind the unbending public facade.



**The Virago Book of Women Travellers**, edited by Mary Morris (Virago, £8.99)

An unusually entertaining anthology of pieces by women travellers who took the bull by the horns, or in one case, the horse between the legs. Gems include Margaret Fountaine on chasing butterflies (and men) in Calabria; and the aptly named Ethel Briliana Tweedie on the perils of riding side-saddle.



**A Mathematician Reads the Newspaper** by John Allen Paulos (Penguin, £6.99)

As you would expect of a maths prof, Paulos deprecates the lazy thinking and statistical illiteracy he finds in the daily blats. He notes that a recipe claiming to provide 761 calories per serving is "meaningless precision". Chaos theory, Paulos says, explains why forecasts are often inaccurate: the best are short-term, simple and hazy. A revealing, if bitty, critique, user-friendly to the innumerate.



**Married Love** by Marie Stopes (Gollancz, £6.99)

Marie Stopes's classic exploration of sex and women's "sorrow" is still a fascinating read nearly 90 years after its first publication. Wonderfully lyrical when it comes to women's "moon-month" rhythms and "sex-tides", Stopes isn't afraid of naming mucus membranes or tumescent parts. An advocate of the revitalizing benefits of separate bedrooms and Alpine air.

### We recommend...

**Cross Channel** by Julian Barnes (Cape, £13.99) Sexy, sweet and affectionate tales of life *outré* *Manche*.

**Vice Versa: Bisexuality and the Eroticism of Everyday Life** by Marjorie Garber, (Hamish Hamilton, £25) Bisexuality and its meanings.

**Dear Dodie** by Valerie Grove (Chatto, £13.99) Entertaining biography of the live wire behind *The One Hundred and One Dalmations*.

**Whisky Galore** read by Stanley Baxter (BBC Radio Collection, £7.99). Delicious Hebridean goings-on.



## Study for a BA or BSc degree.

To broaden your interests or develop your career the Open University offers over 150 courses you can choose from to build your own BA or BSc degree programme. They cover arts, science, social science, computing, technology, modern languages, mathematics, business management, education and health and social welfare. If you are over 18 and resident in the European Union, you're eligible. No previous qualifications are required.

### THROUGH OU SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING

Our proven method of teaching allows you to study wherever you live and in your own time. Specially written texts and audio/video materials are backed by counselling and personal tutorial support and the opportunity to work with other students. If you need help, some financial support may be available. Admissions are on a first-come first-served basis - so fill in the coupon or phone NOW.

### Send for your free brochure on BA/BSc degrees NOW.

Send to: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes, MK1 1TY.  
☐ Please send me a copy of the Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees brochure (the new brochure will be published w/c 29th January).

Name  UDDAL

Address

Postcode  Tel

**OU Hotline (24 hours) 01908 379199**

University education and training open to all adults.

## gardening

# For Taurus, happiness lies in a superior salvia

You can plan your life by the stars, so why not your garden? 'Mystic' Anna Pavord presents a horticultural horoscope

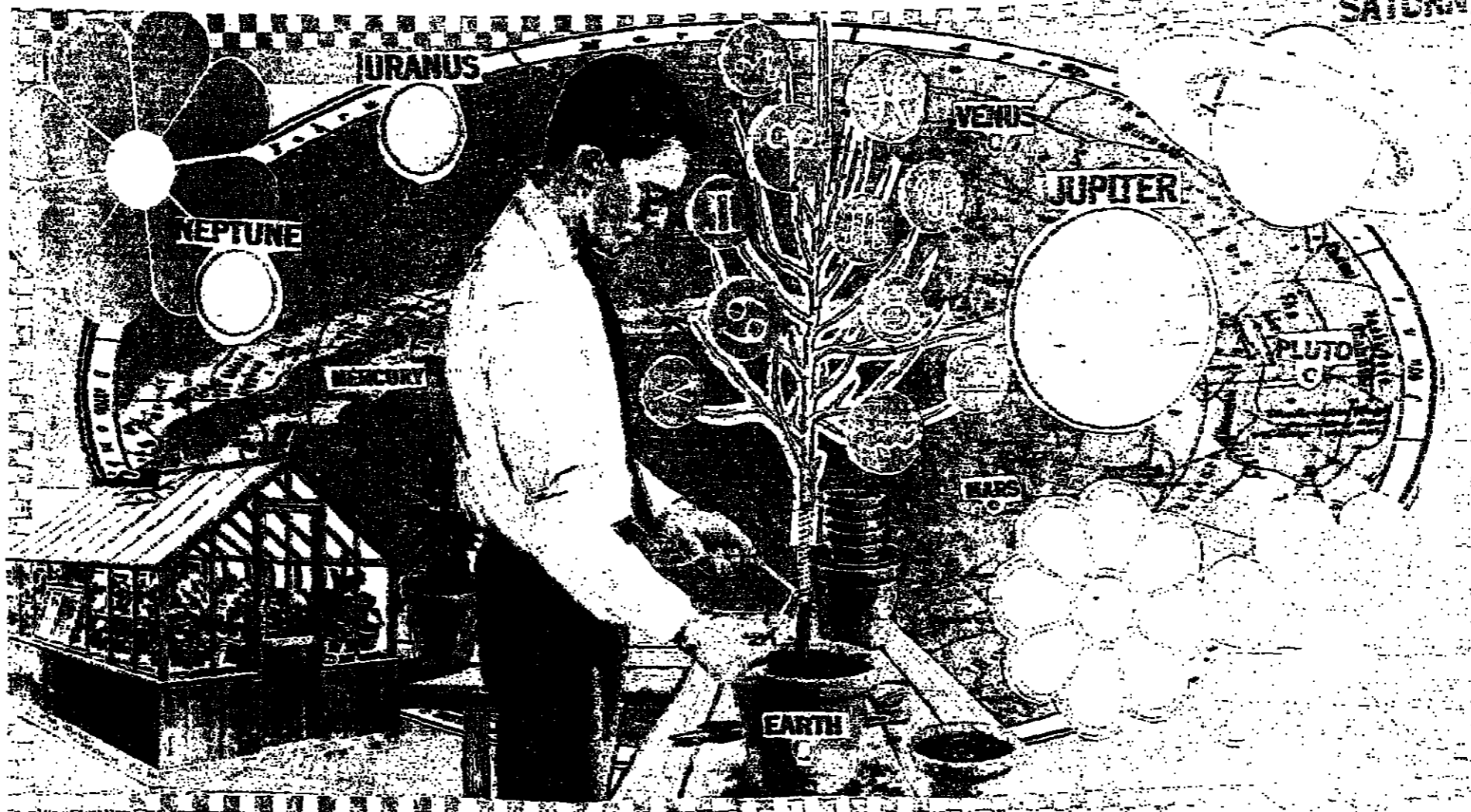
How can it be that a serious newspaper such as the *Independent* is still without a horoscope? Everybody knows what an important part they play in public life these days, and yet here we are with no Mystic Meg, no Petulengro or astrologist of any kind on the staff. It really is too bad. Most horoscopes, though, tend to be obsessed with peripheral matters: career opportunities, emotional relationships and such like. These are interesting enough in their way, but cannot compare with the really big issues: the arrival of a new pot in your life, the anxieties caused by a demanding aspidistra. Stargazers – start here.

**Aquarius (22 Jan-19 Feb)** Dream on Aquarians. One day you, too, could be asking a question on *Gardeners' Question Time*. But there is a danger that in your own garden, your dreams will never quite be translated into reality. Get round this problem neatly by designing gardens for other people instead. The future will always be more interesting to you than the past. Junk Jekyll. Think instead of pergolas of spun steel, water gardens of perspex and laser light shows among the lilies. Uranus in your birth sign makes it likely that you will want to try out things that others might regard as slightly eccentric. But if they don't like your *trompe-l'oeil* Taj Mahal in mirror and bottle tops, more fool them.

**Pisces (20 Feb-20 Mar)** The Sun in your birth sign after the 19th means that you will be able to do whatever you set your mind to over the next few weeks. But still, choices must be made. 'Kiftgate' rose or 'Rambling Rector'? 'Mermaid' or 'Paul's Himalayan'? Letting nature take its course can prove a doubtful doctrine as you may have already found this winter. Drains and poplars do not mix. Pisceans are apt to be lazy and take the line of least resistance: you are curiously drawn towards wildflower gardens. But Pisceans are also intuitive. You will recognise that a plant is in difficulty long before it is past saving, a useful trait in a gardener.

**Aries (21 Mar-20 April)** Arians are good at getting round obstacles and are extremely energetic. All your ebullient energy will be needed this month to circumvent some great drama. It may involve a neighbour. It may involve a boundary. You like quick results, which makes you an impatient gardener. Try this year to curb the trait. In the garden centre, avoid annuals which will die this year and go for perennials which will die next year instead. After the 15th, Mars, your ruler, moves into a tricky part of your chart. Avoid this period for servicing lawnmowers.

**Taurus (21 Apr-21 May)** Happiness is a more obscure salvia than your neighbour's and in this game of horticultural one-upmanship, Taurans will score every time for they are careful, tenacious gardeners. Venus, your ruler, enters the bossy sign of Aries on the 9th and the days thereafter may be full of anxiety. Should it be petunias rather than busy lizzies in the front border this year? Choose carefully, for old ties, once severed, may never be remade. Your worst fault is stubbornness. Try and accept advice more readily. But on the positive side this can be said: you do not believe in short cuts. Taurans always read the instructions on a pack of weedkiller.



**Gemini (22 May-21 Jun)** Criticism never goes down well with Gemini, but it is, after all, such a good idea to plant an all-black garden? It is vagueish, certainly, but you may begin to find it just the teensiest bit limiting. You can have too much even of ophiopogon. Finance continues to be a problem and will be until you learn that you do not necessarily have to throw away the potted camellias after they have finished flowering. You are good at pretending to know more than you do, love variety and will be a compulsive buyer of garden gadgets. Speaking of which, there is the most amazing gismo around now which cuts edges, shaves legs and minces parsley.

**Cancer (22 Jun-22 Jul)** Your delight in the difficult comes to the fore this month when seedlings, always keener on dying than living, demand your attention. Pluto, warring with Mars on the 19th, indicates difficulties in your personal life. Hang on, though: your partner's predilection for mixing purple and orange in the herbaceous border has almost run its course. You are known for your delight in looking after things, so you are likely to find yourself teamed up with tricky alpines. Failing that, you may invent immensely complicated life-support systems for your house plants when you go away. But this might be the year when you discover that you can get seeds which actually take less than a year to germinate.

**Leo (23 Jul-23 Aug)** This is a decisive month for Leos as it marks the start of the giant onion season, the Leo's favourite plant. Make the most of it. Pluto has a challenging aspect which may mean that slugs are massing. The limelight you enjoy will pass you by unless you attend assiduously to watering and pricking out. Outrageous flowers such as gladioli and dahlias, chrysanthemums and begonias are much more likely to be your thing than the more tasteful euphorbias and hellebores. Leos are generous, though, and therefore goodpeople to have as neighbours. "My rose is your rose," they will say munificently as their 'Bobby James' ramble climbs over the boundary fence and reaches 15ft tentacles across your lawn.

**Virgo (24 Aug-23 Sep)** The sun in something or other provides just the boost you need to lash out on a really exciting new asset. A lawn edger, perhaps. You know how you fret if the grass is a whisker out of place. Loved ones do not help this month by leaving tools lying unseen in the shrubbery. All the portents suggest that your black eye will have healed by the solstice. You are likely to be a good planner and organiser but you must learn not to fret if things do not always go as they should. But then that's gardening for you. You are probably best left to garden on your own, for you can be hypercritical, often unfairly, of other people's efforts.

**Libra (24 Sep-23 Oct)** Unexpected developments are about to alter the whole course of your gardening life. Look for love among the bonsai trees, however unlikely this may seem. Everything this month points towards a complete break with the past. Chuck out all your hostas and think Japanese. Librans are star gardeners for they are diplomatic, love harmony and are brilliant mediators. Get yourself elected chairman of your county's National Gardens Scheme committee. They need you. Occasional indecision is your only downfall, but when you have decided, the results in your own garden are likely to be much photographed. Librans get their gardens into all the best magazines.

**Scorpio (24 Oct-23 Nov)** Your delight in a bargain has unexpected consequences when officers of the Fraud Squad turn up to repossess the divine little cherub you picked up for two songs in Pimlico. The National Trust logo stamped firmly on the base should have warned you that something perhaps was amiss. Never mind. Back to Haddonstone. You are likely to have a beady eye for everyone else's business as well as your own. Trust a Scorpio to give you the cheapest source of supply for anything from compost to cotoneasters. You are also likely to be argumentative. When at dinner parties stay off contentious issues such as peat and pesticides.

**Sagittarius (23 Nov-21 Dec)** You need to assert your independence this month – and fast. No matter what the style gurus say, it is perfectly possible to plant a garden without a single grey-leaved plant in it. Try it and see. There are other far-reaching changes on the horizon. Goodbye chrysanthemum. Hello dendranthema, leucanthemopsis, urectantheum, tanacetum... You do not always realise how hurtful your bluntness, a characteristic of all Sagittarians, can be. Some people really do love cacti dressed up in sunglasses and paper skirts. It is not your place to stop them buying them. You rarely sulk, however. But it is equally rare for you to learn from your mistakes. Sagittarians murder more rhododendrons than any other group of gardeners.

**Capricorn (22 Dec-21 Jan)** Long-standing attachments are hard to break but, for once, forget the pennies and lash out on a pair of secateurs. They will be so much easier to use on the philadelphus than the bayonet from the hatstand in the hall. Economical is the polite way to describe Capricorn gardeners. You are the people who save seeds wrapped in screws of paper in old Ovaltine tins and who hover round the recycling bins, waiting to retrieve *Gardeners Illustrated* magazines that other souls are throwing away. But you are likely to work hard, not shirking even the most hideous chores such as scrubbing down the greenhouse. If you are hiring help in the garden, check birthdates first.

## WIN A PORSCHE BOXSTER

with THE INDEPENDENT

### Own one of the first Boxsters in the country

The Porsche Boxster or Project 986 has been perhaps the most eagerly awaited new car of recent years. Not yet in full production and not due for launch until September, we have managed to secure one of the very first Boxsters direct from Germany.

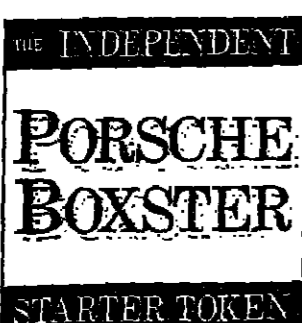
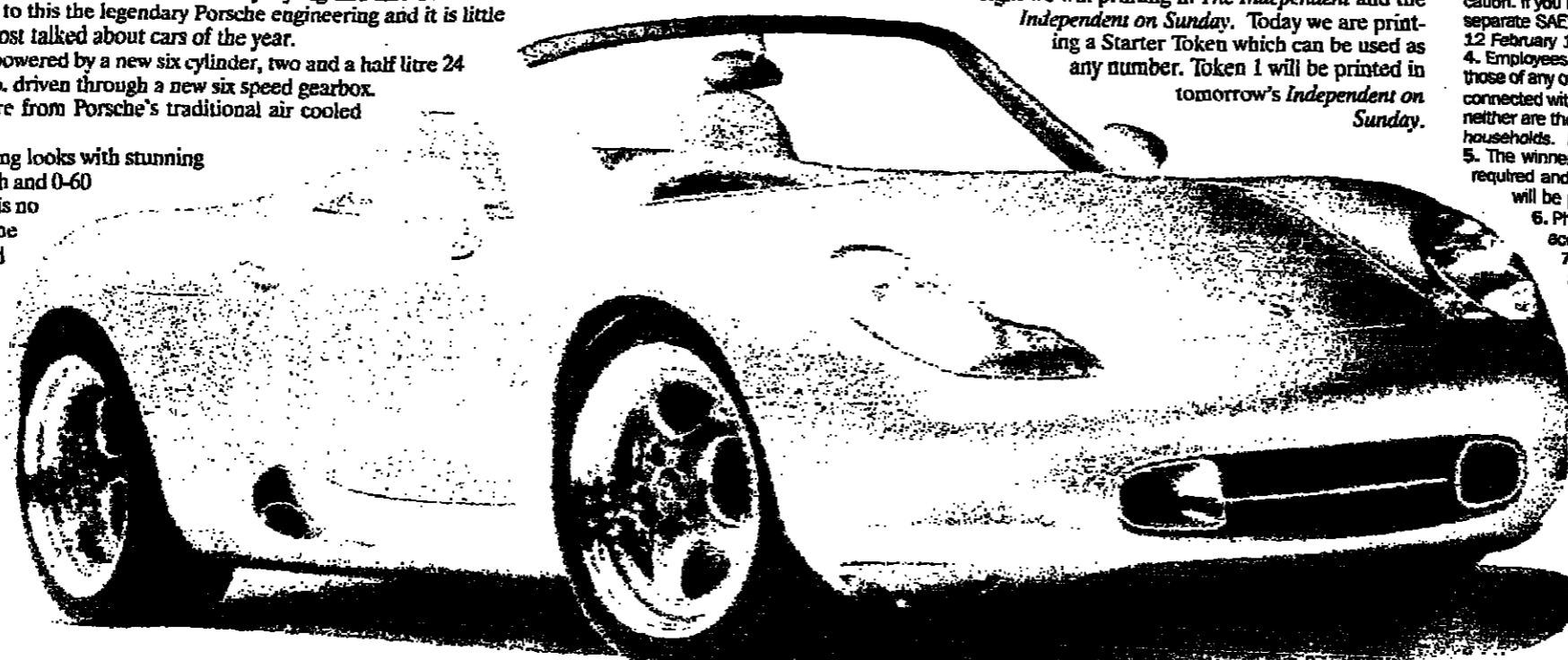
A genuine two seater sports car, the Boxster's retro body styling and fine detail combine for a visually stunning car. Add to this the legendary Porsche engineering and it is little wonder that this is one of the most talked about cars of the year.

The Porsche Boxster will be powered by a new six cylinder, two and a half litre 24 valve engine developing 210 bhp, driven through a new six speed gearbox. This engine is a major departure from Porsche's traditional air cooled power units.

The Boxster combines stunning looks with stunning performance, capable of 140 mph and 0-60 in around six seconds. But this is no hairy beast; it's a drivers car. The mid-engined configuration and double-wishbone suspension all round ensures a smooth ride.

The production Boxster may differ slightly from the prototype shown here but it is sure to be a real head-turner.

To enter our prize draw you must collect five differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing in *The Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*. Today we are printing a Starter Token which can be used as any number. Token 1 will be printed in tomorrow's *Independent on Sunday*.



#### Rules:

1. To enter our Porsche Boxster prize draw you need to collect five differently numbered tokens from the eight we will be printing (including a starter token which can be used as any number).
2. The closing date for entries is 23 February 1996. Send to: The Independent/Porsche Boxster Prize Draw, PO Box 250, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TU along with a completed entry form which will be printed on Saturday 3 February.
3. For previously published tokens or an entry form send a SAE to: The Independent/Porsche Boxster, Token Request or Entry Form, PO Box 83, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 1TU. Only 2 tokens are available per application. If you require both tokens and a form, please send separate SAEs. Requests must be received by first post 12 February 1996.
4. Employees and agents of Newspaper Publishing Plc or those of any other national newspaper company or any firm connected with the promotion are not eligible to take part, neither are their relatives nor members of their families or households. Entrants must be aged 18 or over.
5. The winner must co-operate for publicity purposes: if required and accept that his/her name and photograph will be published in the paper.
6. Photocopies of tokens and entry forms are not acceptable.
7. The promoter reserves the right in their absolute discretion to disqualify any entry of competitor, nominee, or to add to, or waive any rules.
8. No correspondence will be entered into. Proof of postage will not be accepted as proof of receipt. The promoter will not take responsibility for entries lost or damaged in the post. The Editor's decision is final.
9. The competition is open to residents of the UK and the Irish Republic. The prize will be as stated, with no cash alternative. The Editor's decision is final.
10. The Porsche Boxster should be available in November 1996, but is dependent on production dates.

Promoter: Newspaper Publishing Plc, One Canada Square, London E14 5DL

# Call this green and pleasant land?

Repairing the damage has begun. According to the RSPB, the CAP must be further reformed to encourage a reduction in the intensity of farming operations, a return to more mixed farming and to protect traditional practices which conserve habitats such as sheep grazing on chalk grassland. They also want to see more lowland farmland put back to species-rich heathland, woodland wetlands and grassland.

That way, farmers can grow wildlife as well as food on their land and put a feather back in the CAP.

**WALKING IN GERMANY:** 9 Areas. Self-guided, no groups. Began 1978. **ABTA 11327** ATOL 1322. **INDOCHINA TRAVEL:** Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia. Escorted small group tours plus tailor-made itineraries. For friendly, personal service please call 0191 255 5232 (or toll-free 1600 44 1125). **ABTA 11327** ATOL 1322. **HIMALAYAN TREKKING GUIDES:** Excellent trekking books, minus 50% off the cover price. **0507 22 55 55**. **WRIGHT OF LAKES NOKEA (Continental):** 17-day Maratke of the Great African Trip for a donor site. **0151 850777** Next dept. 1/23/96 (NYFA)

**Travel  
Advertising**  
continues  
overleaf.

## travel skiing

## The armchair skier

If you can't afford the sort of fantasy skiing shown on these pages, relax. You can experience it on video. By Liese Spencer

## In Search of Powder

Scott and buddies, retiring to remote corners of Montana in search of powder and perfection, drive endlessly towards the camera or drop from cliffs to the sounds of a *Beavis and Butt-head*-style soundtrack. The film captures spectacular scenery as the boys snowmobile into untracked territory, building igloos and following a New Age ethos of non-polluting sportsmanship. Worth watching for the trip to Antarctica. *Columbia TriStar, 50 mins, £18.99*

## P-Tex Lies and Duct Tape

A snowstorm has been raging in British Columbia for four days - cue for powder-junkie Greg Stump to ignore avalanche warnings and get out on Whistler mountain. A bizarre mix of tectonic history, mogul championships and nude skiing is topped by the inexplicable presence of a hooded skier moving between the trees. *Black Diamond, 75 mins, £16.99*

## The Hedonist

Here absolute pleasure is "flying through space off a 50ft cliff". While snowscape from Chamonix to Alaska provides breathtaking imagery, the film is fronted by nerds in shades, modelling their facial hair for the camera. Watching this makes you wish the gang would try jumping off a cliff without skis. *Black Diamond, 45 mins, £18.99*

## Soul Session and Epic Impressions

Snowboarders carve into pristine slopes, while expert skiers race down vertiginous paths, skimming the ground with gravity-defying elegance. This makes you wish a helicopter would drop you on a mountain top and leave you to find your own way down - until scenes of a skier disappearing into an avalanche remind you of the pleasures of armchair skiing. *Black Diamond, 45 mins, £18.99*

Videos available from Snow+Rock shops. Details: 0171-937 0872

## Snow reports

The snow promised last weekend arrived midweek - but only in parts. Some of the heaviest snow has fallen in Italy, with the unfortunate effect of putting off the World Cup downhill race scheduled for yesterday in Sestriere. France has also had some fresh snow, but many of the northern resorts missed out (Chamonix is only two-thirds open). Hardly any Swiss or Austrian resorts have had new snow and rock-hard pistes are about the best you can hope

for there. Conditions in eastern Europe are no better than fair, but in the Pyrenees Andorra is enjoying about the best skiing in Europe. The very best skiing of all is in North America: although the much-publicised thaw has turned Vermont's skiing into hard-pack, in the Rockies snow midweek added to the existing good base. Most resorts in Colorado and Utah have 1m to 2m of snow even at resort level - Snowbird as usual leads the field with around 3m.

## You can spend £600 a night to stay in the Austrian resort of Gstaad. Is it worth it?

Chris Gill checks out the world's six most glamorous ski resorts

Even if budgetary considerations confine most of us to routinely expensive resorts such as Val d'Isère and St Anton, it's reassuring to see that the other half - well, the other 5 per cent - have pretty much the same sort of skiing as we do. As it happens, skiing in the most glamorous resorts is not necessarily much more expensive than doing so in any big, internationally known resort. But it certainly can be more expensive if you make the most of what's on offer in the hotels, restaurants and shops.

In our selection of the world's six most glamorous resorts, it's only right that affluent Switzerland should be allowed more than its fair share. Students of royal ski expeditions will look in vain for Klosters; it's not particularly glamorous and is certainly not a self-consciously smart resort - the Prince of Wales goes for the skiing and warm reception.

## Aspen

If you're going for American swank, this old mining town in Colorado is the place. The standard view is that Aspen attracts mainly film stars and other celebrities, who seek seclusion in private mansions. But lesser mortals can be cosseted in the opulent Ritz-Carlton or splendidly Victorian Jerome (even more expensive at £250 to £480 per room per night), and choose from scores of restaurants before shooting pool in a basement dive or wangling entry to the Caribou Club. Shopping for expensive trinkets as well as clothes is a major activity, coming a close second to skiing on no less than four excellent mountains, from small but steep Aspen Mountain above the town to big and varied Snowmass, 12 miles away.



Aspen: the shopping is great, the skiing is better

Photograph: Colorific

## Courchevel

With two restaurants earning twin Michelin stars, the smartest resort in France is also the gastronomic capital of skiing. But the thousands of Brits who flock here each winter come for the excellence and extent of the Trois Vallées skiing, stay in catered chalets and eat picnics and Mars bars at lunch time. To break the mould, fly in by air taxi to the airstrip amid the ski fields, stay up in the exclusive Jardin des Alpes (or perhaps in the rather vulgar Byblos des Neiges with rooms at a mere £250-£500 a

night), lunch only just above village level at the Chalet de Pierres and dine at the Bateau Ivre.

## Cortina d'Ampezzo

Italy's most fashionable resort by a considerable margin - in season, a feast for the eyes, when the spectacular Dolomite scenery is complemented by sun terraces full of sharp-dressing Italian visitors. Many of the best lunch spots are accessible by car - a happy arrangement, since many of their patrons would not be seen dead on skis, despite the gloriously long

and spacious nursery slopes. For lunch at the Michelin-starred Tivoli, allow £30 even with a weak lira. A good resort for intermediates, but not much to offer experts.

## Gstaad

Consumption seems relatively inconspicuous here, in what is nevertheless one of the most upmarket of Switzerland's resorts. The winding main street might be that of any Vaudois country village, were it not for the number of Geneva jewellers with outlets there. But ride up a ski-lift on the

surrounding prettily wooded hills and into view come the turrets of the Disney-style Palace hotel, where half-board goes from £200-£600 (per night), and the private chalets where Gstaad habitués spend their winter months. The skiing is low and fragmented; if you're keen, go elsewhere.

## Lech-Zürs

These distinct but linked villages, high in the exceptionally snowy Arlberg mountains close to St Anton, are Austria's smartest - this is the only area in the country where environmental opposition to heli-skiing is ignored. The Princess of Wales patronises pretty Lech, and Princess Caroline of Monaco may or may not still visit less appealing Zürs, but fat Merces with German plates sliding into underground garages define the market. For après-skiers, the ice bar of the Tannbergshof is the place to be seen, having flicked your flexible friend across the counters of Stroiz - a mini department store that seems to sell anything provided it costs enough.

## St Moritz

The Swiss resort first patronised in winter by the dowdy British is now among the smartest in the Alps. Of the five-star hotels, you may feel at home in the dull Kulm or the pleasantly secluded Suvretta, but Viyella-clad Brits aiming to relive past glories on the Cresta run or explore the scenic and entertaining ski area should leave the glossy Carlton to the Germans and the Gothic excesses of Badrutt's Palace (half-board £200-£500 a night) to the Yanks. Lunch should be at the slick Marmite (£30 for a plate of pasta), dinner out at Champfer - allow £60 for the Michelin-starred Johri's Talvo.

Fax: 0171 293 2505

Tel: 0171 293 2222

## travel • overseas

<p><b>Special Interest Holidays</b></p> <p><b>EXPLORE WORLDWIDE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adventure tours</li> <li>Walks and Treks</li> <li>Wildlife Safaris</li> <li>Sailtreks &amp; Seatreks</li> <li>Raft &amp; River Journeys</li> <li>Wilderness Experience</li> </ul> <p>IN EUROPE, TURKEY, GREECE, AFRICA, EGYPT, MIDDLE EAST, CHINA, THAILAND, INDONESIA, USA, SOUTH AMERICA, AUS/NZ...</p> <p>Small escorted groups. New brochures out now!</p> <p>01232 344284 (24hrs)</p> <p>Explore Worldwide (UK) Aldershot GU11 1LQ Fully bonded. ATOL No. 2282 AZTO</p>	<p><b>France</b></p> <p><b>URGENT NEWS</b></p> <p>3,018 NEW WAYS TO DISCOVER UNSPOILED FRANCE</p> <p>Discover France on foot, by bike, or by canoe (with your bags moved for you). Comfortable traditional hotels, fine regional food and wines. Hurry and ring now for our new 102-page colour brochure.</p> <p><b>HEADWATER</b></p> <p>01606 418099</p> <p><b>Chez Nous '96</b></p> <p>Save money - book direct!</p> <p>1500 private owners advertise: Chateaux • Villas &amp; Farm Houses, many with pools • Cottages • Studios • Apartments • Family Homes • Mobile Homes • Bed &amp; Breakfast • Special Interest Holidays • In all Regions of France</p> <p>For 260 page Colour Brochure Tel: 01 484 682603</p> <p>Write - Chez Nous, FREEPOST (UK), Huddersfield HD7 1BR</p>	<p><b>France</b></p> <p><b>JOIN THE LOCALS THIS SUMMER. JOIN LE CLUB DES GITES DE FRANCE NOW!</b></p> <p>For your FREE handbook, please return to: Club de France, 176 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DB.</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>Postcode _____</p> <p>THE ORIGINAL GITES HOLIDAY COMPANY</p>
<p><b>EXODUS</b></p> <p>The Different Holiday</p> <p>UK leaders in small group adventure holidays with over 20 years experience and the widest choice of trips: choose from 4 different brochures.</p> <p><b>Walking</b></p> <p><b>Biking</b></p> <p><b>Discovery</b></p> <p><b>Overland</b></p> <p><b>City Breaks</b></p> <p><b>Amsterdam £105*</b></p> <p>To make a booking or to request a brochure for this and more offers to 11 other exciting cities, see your travel agent, or phone:</p> <p><b>0121 252 3665</b></p> <p><b>Thomson CITYBREAKS</b></p> <p>* 1st night in 17 hotel in Jan/Feb day Manchester.</p>	<p><b>France</b></p> <p><b>france '96</b></p> <p>A superb selection of over 400 handpicked cottages, villas and chateaux, many with pools, throughout France's most beautiful regions. Call now for a free copy of our colour brochure</p> <p>01752 670067</p> <p><b>Spain</b></p> <p><b>HOLIDAYS &amp; BREAKS IN SPAIN</b></p> <p>0990 143 537</p> <p>BROCHURES (24 HOURS)</p>	<p><b>EURO VILLAGES</b></p> <p>THE SPECIALISTS IN SELF-CATERING, SELF-DRIVE HOLIDAYS IN FRANCE AND EUROPE.</p> <p>Enjoy the freedom of self-drive, self-catering with added luxury.</p> <p>Choose from our quality studios and apartments in specially selected, activity packed 'Villages' across France and Europe, or our unique range of individual 'Maisons' in the most beautiful coastal and country regions of France.</p> <p>CHOOSE YOUR FREE BROCHURE NOW THEN CALL US QUOTING IS 0127</p> <p><b>01606 734 413</b></p> <p>For further French Holidays please see page 16.</p>

# Chopper helis

Heliskiing is just one of the options for the adventurous skier with a big budget. By Chris Gill

Imagine that tonight's lottery has come up with the goods. Countis is pestering you to open an account, and your skiing plans are no longer limited by money worries. All you have to do now is decide what kind of skiing you'd really like to indulge in. In case you're short of them, here are some ideas.

For those with a taste for adventurous skiing and with no interest in après-ski indulgence, there is no question about what comes top of the agenda: heliskiing in the Canadian Rockies. Canadian heliskiing has three key components: helicopters to provide uplift, huge quantities of powder snow, and deserted mountain ranges on which the snow can fall and on which the helicopters can land. This simple recipe produces the closest thing to paradise for a competent skier.

Note that I do not say expert or athletic skier. Heliskiing need not involve steep slopes and, thanks to the recently introduced "fat" skis, does not even need the level of skill that you would normally associate with off-piste skiing in the Alps. If it did, it would not attract nearly so many well-heeled middle-aged skiers.

The companies that run these heli operations have their own lodges deep in the Rockies, where you are billeted in comfort but not luxury for the duration of your stay. Each day, the chopper ferries your group of around 10 people up to a remote slope of virgin snow, retrieving you at the end of the run and depositing you at the top of another. And so on, until you use up your allotted "vertical" – at which point you reach for your credit card and start buying more uplift.

At least, that's the theory. It is possible, of course, to encounter a week's blizzards in which the choppers are grounded, and you get a great opportunity to improve your backgammon skills or write the first couple of chapters of your novel. You just have to hope that you don't.

Canadian heliskiing is dominated by two outfits, both with UK agents. CMH operates from eight lodges, mostly in remote settings. Each accommodates 44 skiers – rather like a large catered chalet in the Alps, with open fires to reinforce the mountain lodge atmosphere and comforting extras such as a sauna, Jacuzzi and in-house masseur.

Mike Weigle operates from a bigger central base at Blue River. Right now, Canadian heliskiing is a bit of a bargain because of the weak dollar. Reckon on £2,500 to £3,500 a week – more if you do a lot of extra vertical.

Heliskiing is all very well, but it does put the emphasis very much on the activity of skiing, and not at all on the pampering that can go with it when the budget allows. For a sharp contrast – the sharpest there is – the top-flight hotels of Switzerland take some beating. Opposite this page, you'll find a beginners' guide to the smartest hotels in St Moritz – the greatest concentration of upmarket lodging in the known universe. What these hotels offer is not so much luxurious variations on the usual Alpine accommodation as a kind of complete insulation from the harsh winter world outside. Apart from the stunning views from the windows, once inside you could be almost anywhere.

You don't even need to go to the trouble of booking such hotels yourself. Get hold of the Inghams brochure and you'll find not only the three central five-stars in St Moritz, but also some equally

swanky alternatives in other Swiss resorts – notably Zermatt's Grand Hotel Zermatterhof – and further afield. Even the favoured Alpine retreat of the Princess of Hearts, for example – the Arberg in Lech. Half-board high-season one-week packages run from £1,400 to £2,150.

Smart hotels mean conforming – to the expectations of fellow guests if not to the rules of the establishment. Privacy is the key to real self-indulgence, and that means private lodgings with servants attached. And lodgings don't come any more private than Trapper's Cabin, high on the ski slopes near Vail and reachable only by ski or snowcat. The idea here is that you get to spend the night in complete (and splendidly luxurious) isolation, but don't have the chore of self-catering the chef skis away after dinner. The place sleeps 10, and costs \$550 per person per night.

There is skiing beyond the horizons of Europe and North America, and some of it is very worthwhile. Your newly enlarged budget will not prevent you exploring the intensive resorts of Japan, the high and scenic ski areas of South America, and the

heliskiing potential of New Zealand – the last two coming on stream during our summer, of course. This sort of expedition makes most sense if you combine it with some regular tourism or visits to long-lost relatives, and could easily soak up several thousands of those spare pounds.

Wherever you decide to blow your winnings, you'll want to look the part. Chain-store clothing won't do. For your heli outing you'll want the toughest "technical" kit in order to look the part – perhaps £550 for an outer shell from The North Face and £300 for fleecy layers. For posing in St Moritz, a Bogner one-piece can cost you anything up to £1400.

Heliskiing: CMH – contact Powder Skiing in North America 0171-736 8191; Mike Weigle – contact Fresh Tracks 0181-875 9818 or Ski Scott Dunn 0181-767 0202. For an Inghams brochure call 0181-780 4450. More details about Trapper's Cabin near Vail on 00 1 970 845 5788. For kit information start with Snow + Rock's catalogue – call 01932 569569

## Well, Hello! Fancy seeing you here

Who skis where. By Charlotte Packer

While Prince Charles and his retinue remain faithful to Klosters, other members of the Royal family have looked further afield for their skiing thrills. Diana has discovered the joys of Lech in Austria, and two years ago she kicked up a flurry of excitement when she hit Vail (the cod Swiss skiing village in Colorado favoured by Tom Hanks and John F Kennedy), and provoked much speculation about a romance with a local businessman. The Princess Royal skis at Morzine in France, and Prince Edward, longtime fan of St Anton, has been seen on the slopes of Whistler in British Columbia. But for Fergie, the comparative peace at Klosters has become an increasingly attractive alternative to her pre-Andrew haunts of glitzy St Moritz and Verbier.

The popularity of Swiss ski resorts with the international jet-set has probably more to do with the country's excellent banking facilities than its skiing conditions and Royal patrons. Gstaad is renowned for its unpredictable snowfall and yet boasts a strong celebrity following. David Bowie, Blake Edwards and Julie Andrews, and Roger Moore – none of whom are noted for their skills on the piste – all have homes there. Meanwhile Elizabeth Taylor has graced Zermatt with her presence, though whether she was there for the skiing, the shopping or the socialising is not known.

Italian resorts don't seem to attract many famous faces, but devotees include Julia Carling and Claudia Schiffer, who was apparently assaulted by a man wielding a bobble-hat while she was staying at Cortina in the Dolomites. For a classy après ski sessions, and a spot of alternative royal watching, you could head for Austria where Queen Juliana of the Netherlands and obscure Swedish Royals are said to squeeze into their *salopettes* and slip on their skis alongside the likes of Peter Gabriel and Kim Wilde.

Over in the States, Aspen has long been the favourite resort of the Hollywood set, and this is the time of year to catch the likes of Jack Nicholson, Don Johnson, Goldie Hawn, Kurt Russell, Cher, Harry Hamlin, Steven Spielberg, Martina Navratilova and Barbra Streisand, on the piste. It was rumoured that Hugh Grant was looking for a second home here, presumably won over by talk of Aspen's divine landscape.

Back in the Forties the great and the good of the film industry would have packed their skis and headed for Sun Valley, Idaho. Here you might have gawped at the likes of Gary Cooper, Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn. These days the resort is back in favour with Hollywood and Sigourney Weaver, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Clint Eastwood and Bruce Willis have all been spotted going through their paces. Should a celeb hunt in Sun Valley prove fruitless, the automated snow system, which is one of the largest in the world, will at least guarantee plenty of snow and good skiing.

Working its way up in the popularity stakes is Telluride in the spectacular San Juan Mountains of Colorado where Sylvester Stallone has a ranch, and Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman got hitched five years ago. The nearby Beaver Creek resort is the haunt of Gerald Ford, Dan Quayle, Oprah Winfrey and Brooke Shields.

For Ivana Trump, one time Czech National Ski Team member, nowhere beats the Bugaboos in Canada, and she should know as she's skied at all the key European and North American resorts. She, like John Denver and King Juan Carlos of Spain, is a keen fan of heli-skiing.



The Aspen set (from top): LA Law's Harry Hamlin; Kurt Russell (right) with Danny Sullivan; and Martina Navratilova. Photographs: Colorific!



something to declare

### Travellers' TALES with BALEs

"My wife and I have just returned from your Egypt tour with the Nile Cruise, and wish to lose no time in expressing our pleasure and satisfaction with the arrangements and organisation."

MR N. GRUFFITHS, READING.



Let Britain be your travel guide to the world's most exotic and adventurous destinations. For the full story on Egypt, call for our free '96 brochure on: 01233 211307

Quoting Ref: (1 21.1 E.)

### Visitors' book

Bristol Industrial Museum

Very good if you like aeroplanes and trains  
— Anon

I didn't know there was a Bristol car  
— Bob Grieves, Bristol

Gratefully appreciate the disabled facilities  
— Anon

Very good, but small children can't see over displays. A step by most items would help  
— Steve, Bristol

Better than SS Great Britain, and cheaper!  
— Greatrex family, Keynsham, Avon

I would have liked to sit in Concorde  
— David Oram, Bath

### Bargain of the week

Travellers between the West Country and London are finding weekend journeys difficult because of the rail line being closed between Reading and Swindon. But a price war among bus operators on the M4

### Trouble spots

This week's advice from our man in the Foreign Office

Corsica: "Since November, there has been a series of bomb attacks by extreme nationalists on public buildings throughout Corsica. The attacks seem to be increasing in intensity. Take reasonable care in the vicinity of public buildings."

Guatemala: "Violent crime is prevalent throughout Guatemala, especially in and around the capital and other tourist areas. Muggers are often well-armed. Do not attempt to resist when being robbed. Register with the British Embassy on arrival (321601) for an update on the current situation."

Mali: "Mali is relatively trouble-free. Although travel to Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao is possible, caution should be exercised in the area north of Mopti where banditry is still a risk."

Java: "Indonesia is prone to earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other natural disasters. Avoid Mount Merapi and surrounding areas in Central Java. Further information can be obtained from the Directorates of Volcanology at Bandung (022 772606) and Yogyakarta (0274 514180)."

Foreign Office travel advice is available on 0171-270 4129, on BBC2. CeeFax page 564 onwards and on the Internet at <http://www.fco.gov.uk/>

means you can save a fortune between Bristol and London – and get to the capital more quickly than on the rail-bus-rail arrangement being used by BR. National Express (0990 808080) is charging

£8.75 for a day return, and this is matched by Bakers Dolphin (01934 616000). The latter company reduces the fare for the 240-mile round trip to just £7.45 for senior citizens and students.

## THE INDEPENDENT

### TRAVEL OFFER

### ROME

4 Nights by air from just  
**£339**  
April 1996

Enjoy a long weekend in the fascinating and romantic city of Rome. Chief amongst the attractions are the splendid monuments including the mighty Colosseum, the Forum and the Vatican's Sixtine Chapel and St Peter's Basilica. And don't forget the colourful markets, bustling piazzas, pavement cafes, riverside promenades and the designer stores.

You will be able to explore Rome independently or, if you wish, join an organised tour. An escort is on hand to ensure you get the most out of your time in this fascinating city.

Prices start at only £339 per person for a 4 night break, based on two people sharing a twin room with shower and wc.

ROME IS JUST ONE OF SEVERAL GREAT VALUE TOURS. Others include Florence for 4 or 7 nights, Moscow & St Petersburg, Madrid and Andalusia. Details are in the brochure.

### THE HOLIDAY INCLUDES

- Scheduled flights from London
- Airport to hotel transfers
- Bed and breakfast accommodation
- Airport Taxes and security charges
- Services of a tour leader

Reg. in England 1808667 Newspaper Publishing plc.

Send for your brochure today by telephoning 0116 250 7676 - please quote ref: FW4W2340566

Or return the coupon below to: THE INDEPENDENT ROME OFFER, PAGE & MOY LTD, 136-140 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 1EN

This holiday is organised by Page & Moy Ltd ABTA V6345 ATOL133

THE INDEPENDENT ROME OFFER, PAGE & MOY LTD, 136-140 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LE2 1EN

Please forward an itinerary & booking form (Ref: FW4W2340566)

Name (Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

Please tick this box if you do not wish to receive future mailings from NEWSPAPER PUBLISHINGS PLC or from companies approved by NEWSPAPER PUBLISHINGS PLC INT127

# LOOK BEFORE YOU BOOK

ABTA

When you see the ABTA symbol, you know your holiday is protected. Every travel agent and tour operator in our membership operates under our strict codes of conduct and has passed our rigorous checks on their financial security. So in the unlikely event that they should fail financially, we'll ensure that it's not your holiday that suffers. For a leaflet containing the full story on what ABTA offers you, call 0171 307 1991.



# Ugly, polluted, corrupt. Amazing

Peking is full of contradictions. Follow the tour guides and you'll miss the point. Teresa Poole should know. She lives there

On about day three of a typical China package tour, Western visitors to the capital city tend to wake up suffering from "Jet-lag Peking duck Syndrome". It marks the first of many victories to be scored by China over unwary foreign tourists.

The idea seems to be to exhaust the city's visitors into submission at an early stage. Within 48 hours of arriving, the tour group will have been marched through Tiananmen Square, around the Forbidden City, up the Great Wall and down again, and herded through the Ming tombs. The Peking duck banquet, in all its greasy splendour, represents the final assault on the innocents abroad. Tour group members awake the next morning feeling their stamina already drained and wistfully remembering how they spurned the option of a trip to Bali.

That is when the more robust might profitably decide that a tour-group holiday in China is rather missing the point. Peking's temples cannot compete with those in South-east Asia, the food on offer to tourists is mostly dreadful, and there is none of the opulence of many other Asian capitals.

Peking is an ugly, polluted, corrupt city whose population has a developed sense of disdain for foreigners. Yet that is part of the reason to come. For Peking is also, arguably, the most extraordinary capital in the world, the political centre of a country that 16 years ago decided to reinvent itself using a melange of Communist control and capitalist free-for-all. Off the tourist trail, life is a bundle of contradictions, conflicts and annoyances, where sometimes it seems that the only Asian value left is an insatiable desire for money.

These are complaints voiced by Pekingers themselves. Of course, visit the Great Wall, but it is the country's most recent history that will leave the deepest impression on any visitor who makes a bit of an effort. Most Western tourists arrive already aware of the contradictions. They remember the graphic TV pictures of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown when the Chinese army stormed through Peking killing unarmed protesters. Yet, since then, the "story" from China has been one of unprecedented economic improvement, streets jammed with imported saloon cars, a real-estate development bonanza, and an export industry that has suddenly put "Made in China" labels in products across the world.

That contrast is precisely what makes Peking such an interesting city. Most foreigners, for instance, complain heatedly about the traffic. Yet watch, for a moment, how many of the fanciest cars carry the tell-tale white number-plates

which identify them as military or People's Armed Police vehicles. Marvel at the city's traffic police who, about six weeks ago, metamorphosed overnight into human robots. It was part of a propaganda exercise aimed at brushing up the image of the police. Now they stand on their podiums, choreographed into perfect uniformity, never an arm bent out of line.

It is in Peking's lanes - or *hutongs* - that you can glimpse the old world of the city. Around Houhai Park, or to the east of Dongdan shopping street, you can wander down any lane, and the challenges of modernising such a city immediately become apparent. These are the traditional courtyard homes, picturesque from the outside but on the inside usually desperately crowded and lacking in such luxuries as toilets. Look into the yards to see the bizarre mixture that makes up many families' lives: the inevitable bicycles, a wall of cabbages stored during the winter, and in the main room state-of-the-art television and karaoke equipment.

On a Sunday, head for one of the city's parks, perhaps Beihai or the Temple of Heaven, for the most romantic view of Peking life. Soon after dawn, blue-suited old men will arrive, carrying their songbirds in cages which they hang in the trees. For hours they play chess, or sit idly talking. Throughout the early morning, local Pekingers turn up to take their daily exercises. In my local, Ritan Park, old women exercise their brains (they say) by walking backwards, Chinese of all ages practice shadow boxing and other martial arts, and one group of middle-aged women meet for disco keep fit.

This is, of course, not the modern Peking hurtling down the expressway of economic reform. For that, visit a big shopping centre (try the Landao department store or the Hongqiao indoor market), and see a national retail spending spree in action. Wander through the outdoor market of "Silk Alley" and see if you can resist the advances of the hawkers selling pirated CD-Roms from southern China for a fraction of the cost back home. Bravely go where few Westerners dare to tread - a Chinese karaoke lounge, and witness the major national pastime.

If it all gets too much, do not retreat to some hotel restaurant where the menu is printed in English. The Chinese, for all their nationalistic fervour, are at their most tolerant in situations involving food. Pick any brightly lit restaurant, order a round of Peking draught beers (*Beijing jia pi*), and point to a few key words in the Chinese phrase book. It will probably taste awful, but the look on everyone's faces will be worth every unidentifiable mouthful.



Never out of line: 'about six weeks ago, Peking's traffic police were turned into human robots'

Photo: Greg Baker/AP

## How to get there

British Airways and Air China fly non-stop twice a week between London Heathrow and Peking, but the lowest fares are available from discount agents for travel on other airlines. For example, Campus Travel (0171-730 8111) has a fare of £493, including tax, on Air France from London, Birmingham, Edinburgh or Manchester via Paris.

## How about by rail?

Regular trains operate between Moscow and Peking, with connections from western Europe and to Hong Kong. Most travellers make the week-long journey only in one direction, and fly the other. A basic round trip comprising a flight from London to Moscow, train to Peking and onwards to Hong Kong, with a flight back to London, would cost around £750 through companies such as Bridge the World (0171-911 0900), Regent Holidays (0117 921 1711) and the Russia Experience (0181-566 8846). There are endless stopover possibilities, but these can add substantially to the cost.

## How tangled is the red tape?

British passport holders need a Chinese visa, which is most easily obtained through the China Travel Service, 7 Upper St Martin's Lane WC2H 9DL (0171-836 9911); this agency charges £10 on top of the normal £25 fee. Allow a week for processing. You can obtain a visa more quickly in Hong Kong if you are travelling via the territory, and pay only HK\$100 (about £25). There have been some reports that the documents of British visitors are being checked especially assiduously by Chinese officials because of the political differences over Hong Kong.

## What about flights to Hong Kong?

Air fares are generally lower to Hong Kong than direct to China. STA Travel (0171-361 6262) has a fare of £487 on Emirates via Dubai. Numerous travel agencies in Hong Kong make arrangements for China: Phoenix Services (00 852 2722 7378), based in Kowloon, will arrange tickets and accommodation in China.



## Six of the best sights in Peking

**The Great Wall:** Not to be missed. Those with sturdy legs and knees should head for the wall at Simatai, while anyone who might need a cable-car ascent is best off at Mutianyu.

**The Summer Palace:** On the north-west side of Peking, the gardens are beautiful in summer and winter. On the return journey into the city, try to stop off at some of the traditional villages near the old city moat.

**Mao's Mausoleum:** He looks like wax, and from time to time there are reports that he is leaking, but the Chairman's body stays where it is because it would be far too politically sensitive to move him. You can stock up on tacky Mao memorabilia by the exit.

**Prince Gong's Palace:** An unusually quiet retreat north of the Forbidden City. The gardens are very peaceful, and the palace gives some idea of what life was like for the well-connected before 1949.

**The Pearl Market:** Situated on the third floor of the Hong Qiao indoor market, on the north-east corner of the Temple of Heaven. Head for a vendor called Ms Bai at stalls 113 and 123, provider of freshwater pearls and semi-precious jewellery to Mrs Thatcher (complete with framed photograph).

**Chowant Antiques Market:** Near the north-west corner of Ritan Park, these two warehouses offer a selection of Chinese knock-knacks, and a few real antiques. Never mind if it is a modern copy or an outright fake, just bargain very hard. (True antiques cannot be exported from China without the necessary documentation.)

## WELCOME

to the Hollywood Tower of Terror. Feel free to scream and scream. Everyone else does. It's hard not to exercise your lungs while plummeting down, down, down 13 storeys in a lift faster than the speed of gravity. It's harder still when an EXHAUSTIVE 30ft tidal

Walt Disney World  
FLORIDA

A WALT DISNEY WORLD RESORTS EXPERIENCE

wave is sending an oil tanker to the bottom. So, if you're feeling a little nervous, wide eyes in Catastrophe Canyon. Even at the best of times it's difficult to stifle the wild coffee-curling yell as the evil Jaws hovers over your bacon and eggs. But believe us you'll need a little breakfast to prepare for Walt Disney World's, GUP, these theme parks, fountain-themed fountains, those winter people, five championship golf courses, and night frightfuls, covering 43 fun-packed square miles. And by picking up a great value five day World Explorer pass from your local Disney Store before you go you won't miss a single **WALT DISNEY** kick. Then you can plan where you want to visit first with our **FREE** Walt Disney Planning Video. Just call (800) 800-8000 and we'll send you a copy, and information on exclusive ticket holidays. We think you'll find your holiday in Walt Disney World a most exciting and fun finish.

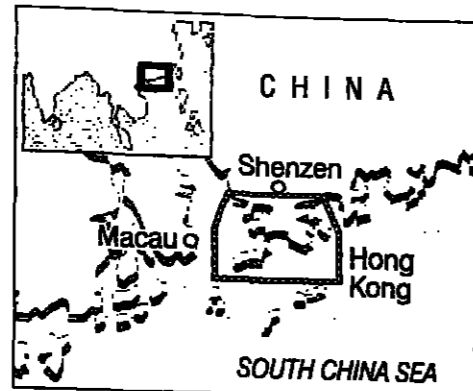
<http://www.disneyworld.com>

Copyright Disney One video per household while stocks last.



# There's the sensible route to Macau...

...and then there's the route that Simon Calder took



Once you've reached Macau, trishaws are your best bet for transport. Photograph: Robert Harding



The opening of the new airport in Macau means there are now two sensible ways to get to the former Portuguese colony 60 miles due west of Hong Kong: by sea, or by air. I went by land. You might possess a residue of classroom French and German, a smattering of holiday Spanish, and even have mastered the Cyrillic characters of the Russian alphabet, but when you cross the thin red line from Hong Kong into China, you become a mute stranger in the strangest of lands.

Hong Kong's suburban rail network ends at Lo Wu, a small, sweaty settlement that would be wholly unremarkable were it not the front half of the main valve between the planet's most populous country and the rest of the world. Every few minutes, a train wheezes to a halt and disgorges hundreds more passengers. Hop over a series of official hurdles, and you suddenly find yourself ejected into the middle of a seething city. From being the cosseted tourist a few minutes ago, you are transformed into an alien.

All the clues that you normally use to orient yourself are useless in this part of the Orient. Look for a landmark or a street name to get your bearings, and all you see is a scrabble of graceful but impenetrable Chinese characters. Even the sun shelters behind a layer of high-

octane smog, denying you the chance of getting a directional fix. The local characters sipping tea in the cafés are used to wide-eyed backpackers carving a trail of bewilderment through Shenzhen, so you barely merit distraction from the synchronised pecking at snacks. Elevenses already, and you still have to cross China.

Yet all you are really trying to do by teatime is to clip a tiny corner of a huge country, a journey of no more than 100 miles. And to make life easy, this is the most prosperous and advanced part of China. Shenzhen City is the high-rise hub of a Special Economic Zone that borders Hong Kong and thrives on the same enterprise culture. Sooner or later, a besuited businessman will take pity on the confused tourist and steer you towards the right bus.

At about the point on the bus ride when you guess that the broad city street must finally dissolve into a country road through profoundly green fields - it accelerates into a motorway, speeding straight to Guangzhou. The route to Macau, though, slips off to the left and the town of Humen. You get tipped out of the bus into the care of another well-spoken entrepreneur, who quits his mobile phone for long enough to steer you in the direction of the town's official

tourist attraction: the opium museum.

Compared with the attractions *en route*, the historic monument of Humen is something of a side-show. But as the clock on Britain's lease of the New Territories ticks towards its 1997 expiry, the site acquires poignancy. In 1839, an uprising against the British drug barons forced them to hand over a huge consignment of opium, which was burnt on this very riverbank. But four years later the British forced China to allow them to build a fort on the site, to help them re-establish the trade in opium that made rule from London so hard to shake off.

Any traces of Anglicisation were extinguished during Mao's rule, so again you must seek help to set you on the next stage of the journey. A single bus, it appears, will take you almost to the frontier of Macau.

Buses get a poor press compared with the praise heaped upon trains, but this one would be a contender for any collection of Great Bus Journeys of the World. Not for the vehicle itself, a rudimentary beast that had clearly done this thousands of times before. Nor for the roadside scenery, a pleasant but unexceptional collage of agriculture and activity. The thing that makes this an amazing journey is the crossing of the Pearl River. The inevitable new bridge over this three-mile

divide will put an end to a startling piece of maritime theatre. The road suddenly ends in a delta of slip roads, each threading up to a boarding ramp. A fleet of smoke-belching ferries, squat and ugly, perform the most graceful marine dance. They deftly side-step one another as they shuttle back and forth, each one pausing only long enough to roll off one cargo of buses and trucks and roll on the next. From the deck, make the most of this unexpected boat trip to survey the frenzied shuffle and admire the fine embroidery that the wakes create on the surface of the muddy Pearl.

The last leg of the bus ride whisks you down the far side of the estuary, the skyline climbing

as you approach Macau: buildings rise in proportion to the proximity of capitalism. The bus terminates some way from the border, but the improbably bulky luggage of your fellow passengers marks them out as transit travellers. You follow the procession of stripy red/blue bags bulging with cheap exports to the frontier.

Departure from the People's Republic is smoother than arrival, allowing you to slalom rather than stutter past the bureaucracy. You emerge into a strangely familiar post-colonial cityscape, joyful to be a regular tourist once more. Never has a former Portuguese outpost felt so comforting.

You take the ferry back to Hong Kong.

## A Special Announcement

### The Costa Rica Wanderer

Due to variable flight loadings during the first half of 1996 we are able to present a number of departures at a fraction of the normal tariff for those that have the flexibility of travelling at short notice and enjoy a degree of independence. However, we should warn would-be travellers that these offers are very popular and those that were offered during November and December sold within days of being announced, so early telephone reservations are essential.

**THE COSTA RICA WANDERER**  
Costa Rica in being so compact and varied is the ideal location in which to tour and relax. The Wanderer programme concept is simple: it includes international flights ex. Gatwick to and from San Jose, one night's pre-booked accommodation to be followed by a series of 6 accommodation vouchers that can be redeemed at a variety of hotels and lodges throughout the country. Car hire can be obtained for approximately \$US300 per week thus making it an ideal arrangement for those that wish to take advantage of our organisation



7 nights from £415.00

yet are still free to roam.

#### DEPARTURE DATES & PRICES

Thursdays - per person in a twin	
February 1, 15, 22, 29	£415.00
March 7, 14, 21, 28	£415.00
April 4	£460.00
April 11, 18, 25	£415.00
May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	£415.00
Single room supplement	£64.00

All arrangements exclude travel insurance, airport taxes and visas if necessary.

0171-616 1000



VOYAGES JULES VERNE  
21 Dorset Square, London NW1 6QG

Travel Promotions Ltd. ABTA V1661 ATOL 8838  
Our offices are open for telephone reservations weekdays 9am to 7pm and weekends 10am to 6pm. For personal callers, our office hours are 9am to 5pm weekdays only.

## WORLD DEPARTURES

Welcome to the Hotel Kali-Wormia. The accommodation possibilities in Albania have expanded dramatically in the past year. Options in the country known as "the Land of the Eagles" now include this small three-star hotel close to the centre of the capital, Tirana, where a double room costs £61. This is one of many options in what used to be Europe's most isolated nation: in the 1970s, it was accessible only with Regent Holidays of Bristol (0117-921 1711). The company's 1996 brochure offers more possibilities than ever. Nowadays private cars are permitted, but you are warned that "accurate road maps are not available, many roads are impassable and road signs not prominent".

## China

20 days in Beijing, Xian, Nanjing, Tianjin, the Yellow Mountain, Shanghai, Hangzhou, Guilin and Hong Kong.

### A classic tour of the Middle Kingdom with the people who know it best

In China few places are more special than the province of Anhui. Far from the bustle of urban China, it is a timeless landscape of terraced rice paddies, ancient villages and traditional values. On our Dragon's Crown tour, we take our guests into the heart of Anhui, the soul of China, to spend two nights in the clouds on the summit of Mount Huangshan, the Yellow Mountain, whose beauty has been long celebrated by Chinese poets and painters. UNESCO too has recognised the magnificence of the peaks by entering them in their list of world heritage sites. On the Xian River we cruise past cormorant fishermen and picturesque hamlets, stopping to pick our own tea on the terraced hillsides. In Yixian county we have secured special permits to allow our guests to visit two traditional villages, usually closed to tourists, that are little changed since the Qing and Ming dynasties. There are of course the usual highlights of the Middle Kingdom - the Great Wall, Beijing's Forbidden City, Xian's Terracotta Army, the waterfront at Shanghai, the river cruise through the spectacular hills of Guilin, and the cosmopolitan excitement of Hong Kong (to create a 15 day tour you may choose to fly back to London from Shanghai via Beijing. Prices are from £1610). At China Travel Service, China is more than just another destination.

For tours of China, talk to the experts, we're at home in the Orient.

#### THE DRAGON'S CROWN TOUR

Departures, prices and (single supp):

Apr 14	£1995 (395)
Aug 11	£1995 (330)
Sep 8, Oct 6	£1995 (395)

Phone 24 hour hotline for our superb brochure

01233 211818

Please quote ref: D 201

China Travel Service (UK) Ltd

CTS House, 7 Upper St Martins Lane

London WC2H 9DL

Tel: 0171-836 9911 Fax: 0171-836 3121

To extend your holiday, select from our range of Far East destinations, including Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia. British Airways flights are optional, subject to availability and supplement.

# FRANCE & SPAIN NOW!

GREAT VALUE WAYS TO ENJOY BRITTANY, NORMANDY AND SPAIN

Enjoy amazing offers on selected sailings to all our attractive ports of Caen, Cherbourg, St Malo, Roscoff and Santander.

LUXURIOUS CRUISE PERFORMERS  
DUTY FREE BOATWAYS  
CHOICE OF RESTAURANTS



#### DAY TRIPS AND 24-HOUR RETURNS

Spend up to 24 hours in France

**£19**

Car plus occupants

Plus voucher for £19 off any brochure fare purchased subsequently during 1996!

**£6.50** return per person without a car

#### 3-DAY RETURNS

Spend up to 3 days in France

**£39\***

Car plus occupants

#### 8-DAY RETURNS

Spend up to 8 days in France

**£69\***

Car plus occupants

#### 16-DAY RETURNS

Spend up to 16 days in Spain

**£99**

Car plus occupants

#### MINI-CRUISE TO SPAIN

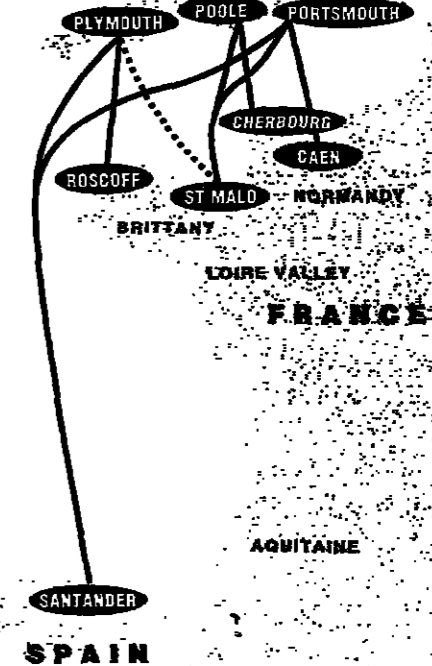
Cruise in luxury to Santander and back

**£39** per person. Includes berth in a 4-berth cabin



All offers include Club Class reclining seat on overnight crossings. Can be used with most inclusive holidays. Ask about our Privilege Card and Hotel Value Vouchers which give substantial savings at over 900 hotels throughout France and Spain.

RESERVATIONS 0990 360 360 BROCHURES 0990 143 537



FARE CONDITIONS - All travel to France to be completed by 30 April 1996. All travel to Spain to be completed by 31 March 1996. Special fares subject to availability and are in conjunction with any other offer, promotion, discount or tour operator's tariff. Standard booking conditions as shown in current brochures also apply. Payment required on booking. Special fares can be used in conjunction with inclusive holidays where ferry travel is priced separately. £10 per car supplement for Friday night departures to France. \*£10 per car supplement from 1 April 1996 for 3-Day and 8-Day Return fares. These fares do not apply from 4-8 April 1996 and, Brittany Ferries reserve the right to alter, vary or withdraw any special fare on offer at any time. No refunds. £10 alteration fee. Other special conditions apply. Please enquire.  
MOBILE PHONE OFFER CONDITIONS - Portable phone comes with battery and charger connected free to the Personal World tariff. To qualify you are required to sign a 12 month contract at a monthly rental of £20.57. Call charges are 42p per minute peak and 18p per minute off peak. All rates include VAT. Offer applies only to persons aged 18 years and over, resident on the UK mainland and is subject to terms and availability. Further information available on request.



**GAVIN GREEN**

The British car had a wretched 100th birthday. The misguided Coventry Cathedral service was cleverly hijacked by the naked body of the environmental campaigner Lucy Pearce, shortly before she returned to an anti-road protest in Devon (by car).

Endless stories ran about how many people had been killed/maimed/poisoned by cars. A *Guardian* columnist, while admitting that most people liked their cars, said that our transport future was post-car, "in which cleaner, well-designed public transport can whisk us around and between cities". Really? And what happens if you don't live in a city? Even the right-wing *Spectator*, whose principles should be perfectly in line with car use, has started a "Not Motoring" column.

Yet of course the car will survive the next 100 years. Private transport of 2096 will, undoubtedly, be nothing like that inefficient tin box parked outside your home. That is what the anti-car brigade fail to understand: they underestimate just how much better private transport can and will get. It will, because it must.

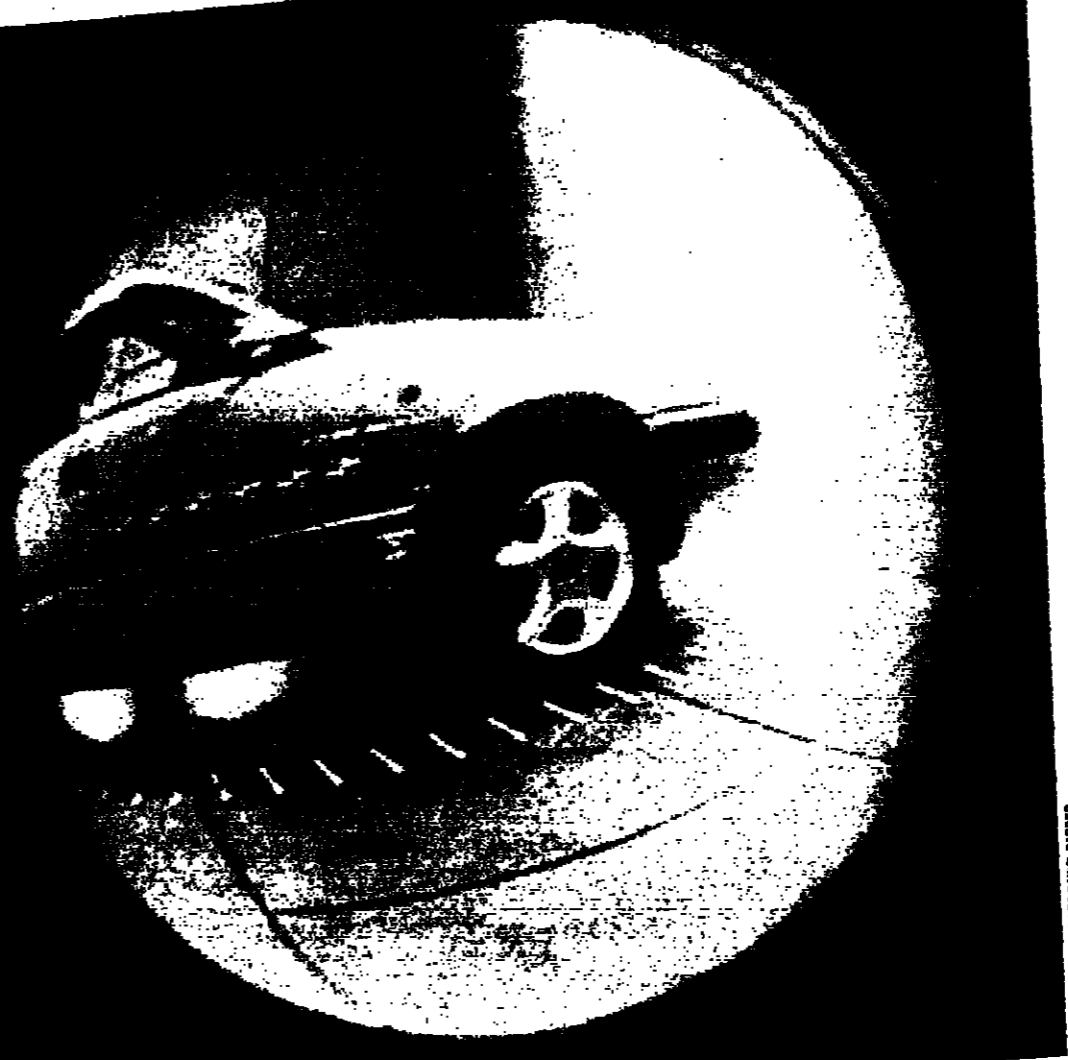
The more rabid environmentalists argue that because private transport is highly polluting, it is best to return to what we had before: public transport, suitably modernised, supplemented by bicycles. No doubt better buses and trains, and bicycles, will play a big part. And in some areas, such as cities, perhaps they should play the only part. But does anybody seriously think British people will happily return en masse to queuing at bus stops? We had that once, and rejected it when cars became affordable.

Because people will always want private transport, so the car industry will provide it. And because people will demand it, those future cars will be clean and safe. The petrol internal combustion engine will continue to get cleaner, because it must. By the turn of the century it should even start to purify polluted inner-city air. But we'll have to wait for the wholesale use of natural gas or similar (in 15 to 20 years probably) to get massive air quality improvements. Cars will also become different from each other. Within 20 years, they will not all be boxes of steel, which nowadays differ principally in styling. Cars will come in all shapes and sizes and will be both lighter and stronger than those today, and bespoke city cars, twin- or even single-seaters, may be a feature.

To campaign against the car as an institution is a mistake. There will always be private transport, in some form. The campaign should be to make the car safer and cleaner, to revolutionise it, not to kill it.

## How to get ahead in advertising

The car may be ordinary but the campaign is extraordinary. That'll be the Daewoo.  
By Matthew Gwyther



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF DAEWOO

In a slow market, manufacturers will try anything to sell cars. The latest "short-off-my-back" marketing wheeze from Korean contender Daewoo is to offer 100 free vehicles to punters who can come up with the most gory tales of maltreatment at the hands of other producers. Customer care, runs Daewoo's message, is our business - we want to learn from rivals' mistakes. Our aim, it says, is to be the M&S of the car world.

Right from its launch into the UK last April, Daewoo has adopted a novel approach to shifting metal. The company organised a huge market research exercise to find 200 "guinea pigs" who would each receive a free car for a year to help Daewoo tailor its service and products. Around 180,000 hopefuls applied and each was sent a detailed questionnaire to

discover their likes and dislikes about car buying.

Car salesmen have rarely enjoyed a good press down the years - the snake in the sheepskin easing around his forecourt and off-loading his "lovely little runners" is one of the oldest stereotypes going. Even so, Daewoo's findings were spectacularly damning: customers apparently rated car salesmen "marginally higher than serial killers". Pushy, intimidating and patronising were some of the kinder adjectives. 63 per cent felt they had been worked over in a "hard sell" and 78 per cent found they had been treated worse after buying the car than when making the original decision.

It is hardly news that the weak link in keeping the customer satisfied has always been the dealers rather than those who actually make the cars.

Few cars rust or rattle any more and many look physically similar. So how buyers are treated is fast becoming a vital point of differentiation. BMW, for example, cottoned on to this some while back.

"Most manufacturers have been pouring money into the dealer network," says Patrick Farrell, Daewoo's marketing director who was poached from Rover. "It's all persuasion and cajoling but a lot of effort has been wasted. I can remember amazing tales from my time at Rover. For example the occasion when a purchaser took a new car away with just a cup of petrol in it, went on to the motorway and ran out of fuel. He phoned the dealer who charged a £70 call out fee when he arrived with the fuel can."

To avoid any such nightmares Daewoo decided it would keep close control of the process by trying direct selling. The company ditched the idea of a franchised dealer network and set up its own permanent car supermarkets called Motor Shows and Car Centres, a highly expensive exercise. "We knew right from the start that we'd touched a nerve in the UK market," says Mr Farrell. "When you say to the average Brit that you 'cut out the middle man' it tends to work. We're very into bargains here."

Having publicly clambered aboard the customer care bandwagon with a totally unknown and untried product, Daewoo knew that it would have to provide an after-sales service second to none. Each car came with a three year warranty, three years' free servicing with home pick up and courtesy car, RAC membership, 12 months road tax, no delivery fee and a 30 day money-back offer. The only catch was that there was to be no haggling over price.

To broadcast its arrival, Daewoo hired Duckworth, Finn, Grubb, Waters, an advertising agency based in Soho, London. They came up with a quirky strategy notable for a lack of glamorous women, long shots of winding roads or tyres dramatically spitting gravel. To overcome the "Daewoo?" problem it adopted the self-deprecating "biggest car company you've never heard of" slogan. The latest television effort has an elderly lady in a crash helmet running into a wall.

Daewoo was received with considerable cynicism in the trade. However, doing things in such an unconventional fashion appears to have worked. Daewoo is the most successful car launch ever, going from zero to 13,169 sales in eight months. This makes the company 17th in the

list of 43 manufacturers and already ahead of well established companies such as Mazda. Campaign, the advertising industry magazine, recently awarded Daewoo its Advertiser of the Year prize.

It's maybe as well that all the attention has been focused on how Daewoo sells its cars rather than the vehicles themselves. The two Daewoo models on offer - the Espero and Nexia - are slightly frumpy re-workings of the age-old Cavalier and Astra which have been loaded with desirable extras such as air conditioning. Daewoo make no bones about the product. "It's a bread and butter car," says Patrick Farrell. "Basic transport for people who don't care about the emotional side of motoring. Our purchasers are rational whereas a large number of new car buyers aren't."

So who has been seduced by the Daewoo message? What is the average customer profile? Charlie Dawson, the account director at Duckworth, Finn, Grubb, Waters has a pretty good idea in his mind's eye: "I suppose a teacher with two kids who is bright but not rolling in it. They don't see a car as a status symbol." Canny, careful folk maybe, but not quite as thick skinned as a Lada or Proton driver.

## travel • overseas, uk

### USA



### Leisure Breaks to California from £469.

If you want to experience the real California then take a United Vacation. We offer just the right mix of fun and relaxation. From sun-drenched beaches to colourful Disney characters, lush green vineyards to bright city lights.

So why just settle for a holiday to California, when you can have the real thing, a United Vacation. Call 01235 824344 for a copy of our brochure or see your local travel agent.

**UNITED VACATIONS**  
UNITED AIRLINES

DON'T GO ON HOLIDAY TO AMERICA, TAKE A VACATION.  
AUSA 74/12/99 1716 74/12/99

### UK Travel



**YOUR KEY TO THE WIDEST RANGE OF COUNTRY COTTAGES.**  
Holidays from £26pp.  
For a brochure call  
**01282 445777**  
quoting DIX707 or see your travel agent.  
**BLAKES Cottages**

### COTTAGE HOLIDAYS FROM ONLY £25\*

### BIG NEW 1996 BROCHURE

1000's of quality cottages throughout the country - choose a short break from 361 or a week's holiday from 587 per cottage

MANY 1996 PRICES HELD. CALL TODAY FOR DETAILS.  
Quoting code DIX710  
\* P.P.P. based on 4 sharing an 'X' band property

**Country Holidays**  
Britain's favourite cottage holidays  
**01282 445721**

**Welcome COTTAGE HOLIDAYS**  
IN WONDERFUL LOCATIONS AT WELCOMING LOW PRICES  
• PETS, LINEN AND FUEL MOSTLY INCLUDED  
• Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Dorset, Norfolk, Suffolk, Heart of England, North Wales, Peak District, Lakeland, Dales, Northumberland and Scotland.  
BIG PAGE CATALOGUE BROCHURE 01756 702200

**English Country Cottages**  
AN UNRIVALLED choice in England's loveliest areas. Free 428 page colour brochure.  
RING (01455) 852222 QUOTE E332 04141

**Holidays Afloat UK**  
BRITAIN'S BEST Self Drive Narrowboat holidays. Widest choice, Beginners very welcome. Tel 01865 728525.  
**Special Interest Holidays**  
INDIVIDUALS enjoy the creative & relaxed short courses at Coombe Farm Studios, S. Devon. Join us for painting, calligraphy, paper-making, etc. 01803 722552

For further  
**UK Travel Holidays**  
please see page 6.

## motoring

### Car Accessories

### GET TO GRIPS with winter conditions



**RUD GRIP SNOW-CHAIN!**  
RUD Chains Ltd. • John Wilson Business Park  
Whitstable, Kent CT5 3QT • Thanet Way • Unit 10-12  
Telephone (01227) 276611 • Facsimile (01227) 276586

### Registration Numbers

MARKET RESEARCH					
33 DAY MILE DRIVE CHORLEY PRG ONE					
ADA 87	1,250	DAW 1250	495	ADA 192	1,250
ADA 88	1,250	DAW 1251	496	ADA 193	1,250
ADA 89	1,250	DAW 1252	497	ADA 194	1,250
ADA 90	1,250	DAW 1253	498	ADA 195	1,250
ADA 91	1,250	DAW 1254	499	ADA 196	1,250
ADA 92	1,250	DAW 1255	500	ADA 197	1,250
ADA 93	1,250	DAW 1256	501	ADA 198	1,250
ADA 94	1,250	DAW 1257	502	ADA 199	1,250
ADA 95	1,250	DAW 1258	503	ADA 200	1,250
ADA 96	1,250	DAW 1259	504	ADA 201	1,250
ADA 97	1,250	DAW 1260	505	ADA 202	1,250
ADA 98	1,250	DAW 1261	506	ADA 203	1,250
ADA 99	1,250	DAW 1262	507	ADA 204	1,250
ADA 100	1,250	DAW 1263	508	ADA 205	1,250
ADA 101	1,250	DAW 1264	509	ADA 206	1,250
ADA 102	1,250	DAW 1265	510	ADA 207	1,250
ADA 103	1,250	DAW 1266	511	ADA 208	1,250
ADA 104	1,250	DAW 1267	512	ADA 209	1,250
ADA 105	1,250	DAW 1268	513	ADA 210	1,250
ADA 106	1,250	DAW 1269	514	ADA 211	1,250
ADA 107	1,250	DAW 1270	515	ADA 212	1,250
ADA 108	1,250	DAW 1271	516	ADA 213	1,250
ADA 109	1,250	DAW 1272	517	ADA 214	1,250
ADA 110	1,250	DAW 1273	518	ADA 215	1,250
ADA 111	1,250	DAW 1274	519	ADA 216	1,250
ADA 112	1,250	DAW 1275	520	ADA 217	1,250
ADA 113	1,250	DAW 1276	521	ADA 218	1,250
ADA 114	1,250	DAW 1277	522	ADA 219	1,250
ADA 115	1,250	DAW 1278	523	ADA 220	1,250
ADA 116	1,250	DAW 1279	524	ADA 221	1,250
ADA 117	1,250	DAW 1280	525	ADA 222	1,250
ADA 118	1,250	DAW 1281	526	ADA 223	1,250
ADA 119	1,250	DAW 1282	527	ADA 224	1,250
ADA 120	1,250	DAW 1283	528	ADA 225	1,250
ADA 121	1,250	DAW 1284	529	ADA 226	1,250
ADA 122	1,250	DAW 1285	530	ADA 227	1,250
ADA 123	1,250	DAW 1286	531	ADA 228	1,250
ADA 124	1,250	DAW 1287	532	ADA 229	1,250
ADA 125	1,250	DAW 1288	533	ADA 230	1,250
ADA 126	1,250	DAW 1289	534	ADA 231	1,250
ADA 127	1,250	DAW 1290	535	ADA 232	1,250
ADA 128	1,250	DAW 1291	536	ADA 233	1,250
ADA 129	1,250	DAW 1292	537	ADA 234	1,250
ADA 130	1,250	DAW 1293	538	ADA 235	1,250
ADA 131	1,250	DAW 1294	539	ADA 236	1,250
ADA 132	1,250	DAW 1295	540	ADA 237	1,250
ADA 133	1,250	DAW 1296	541	ADA 238	1,250
ADA 134	1,250	DAW 1297	542	ADA 239	1,250
ADA 135	1,250	DAW 1298	543	ADA 240	1,250
ADA 136	1,250	DAW 1299	544	ADA 241	1,250
ADA 137	1,250	DAW 1300	545	ADA 242	1,250
ADA 138	1,250	DAW 1301	546	ADA 243	1,250
ADA 139	1,250	DAW 1302	547	ADA 244	1,250
ADA 140	1,250	DAW 1303	548	ADA 245	1,250
ADA 141	1,250	DAW 1304	549	ADA 246	1,250
ADA 142	1,250	DAW 1305	550	ADA 247	1,250
ADA 143	1,250	DAW 1306	551	ADA 248	1,250
ADA 144	1,250	DAW 1307	552	ADA 249	1,250
ADA 145	1,250	DAW 1308	553	ADA 250	1,250
ADA 146	1,250	DAW 1309	554	ADA 251	1,250
ADA 147	1,250	DAW 1310	555	ADA 252	1,250
ADA 148	1,250	DAW 1311	556	ADA 253	1,250
ADA 149	1,250	DAW 1312	557	ADA 254	1,250
ADA 150	1,250	DAW 1313	558	ADA 255	1,250
ADA 151	1,250	DAW 1314	559	ADA 256	1,250
ADA 152	1,250	DAW 1315	560	ADA 257	1,250
ADA 153	1,250	DAW 1316	561	ADA 258	1,250
ADA 154	1,250	DAW 1317	562	ADA 259	1,250
ADA 155	1,250	DAW 1318	563	ADA 260	1,250
ADA 156	1,250	DAW 1319	564	ADA 261	1,250
ADA 157	1,250	DAW 1320	565	ADA 262	1,250
ADA 158	1,250	DAW 1321	566	ADA 263	1,250
ADA 159	1,250	DAW 1322	567	ADA 264	1,250
ADA 160	1,250	DAW 1323	568	ADA 265	1,250
ADA 161	1,250	DAW 1324	569	ADA 266	1,250
ADA 162	1,250	DAW 1325	570	ADA 267	1,250
ADA 163	1,250	DAW 1326	571	ADA 268	1,250
ADA 164	1,250	DAW 1327	572	ADA 269	1,250
ADA 165	1,250	DAW 1328	573	ADA 270	1,250
ADA 166	1,250	DAW 1329	574	ADA 271	1,250
ADA 167	1,250	DAW 1330	575	ADA 272	1,250
ADA 168	1,250	DAW 1331	576	ADA 273	1,250
ADA 169	1,250	DAW 1332	577	ADA 274	1,250
ADA 170	1,250	DAW 1333	578	ADA 275	1,250
ADA 171	1,250	DAW 1334	579	ADA 276	1,250
ADA 172	1,250	DAW 1335	580	ADA 277	1,250
ADA 173	1,250	DAW 1336	581	ADA 278	1,250
ADA 174	1,250	DAW 1337	582	ADA 279	1,250
ADA 175	1,250	DAW 1338	583	ADA 280	1,250
ADA 176	1,250	DAW 1339	584	ADA 281	1,250
ADA 177	1,250	DAW 1340	585	ADA 282	1,250
ADA 178	1,250	DAW 1341	586	ADA 283	1,250
ADA 179	1,250	DAW 1342	587	ADA 284	1,250
ADA 180	1,250	DAW 1343	588	ADA 285	1,250
ADA 181	1,250	DAW 1344	589	ADA 286	1,250
ADA 182	1,250	DAW 1345	590	ADA 287	1,250
ADA 183	1,250	DAW 1346	591	ADA 288	1,250
ADA 184	1,250	DAW 1347	592	ADA 289	1,250
ADA 185	1,250	DAW 1348	593	ADA 290	1,250
ADA 186	1,250	DAW 1349	594	ADA 291	1,250
ADA 187	1,250	DAW 1350	595	ADA 292	1,250
ADA 188	1,250	DAW 1351	596	ADA 293	1,250
ADA 189	1,250	DAW 1352	597	ADA 294	1,250
ADA 190	1,250	DAW 1353	598	ADA 295	1,250
ADA 191	1,250	DAW 1354	599	ADA 296	1,250
ADA 192	1,250	DAW 1355	600	ADA 297	1,250
ADA 193	1,250	DAW 1356	601	ADA 298	1,250
ADA 194	1,250	DAW 1357	602	ADA 299	1,250
ADA 195	1,250	DAW 1358	603	ADA 300	1,250
ADA 196	1,250	DAW 1359	604		
ADA 197	1,250	DAW 1360	605		
ADA 198	1,250	DAW 1361	606		
ADA 199	1,250	DAW 1362	607		
ADA 200	1,250	DAW 1363	608		
ADA 201	1,250	DAW 1364	609		
ADA 202	1,250	DAW 1365	610		
ADA 203	1,250	DAW 1366	611		
ADA 204	1,250	DAW 1367	612		
ADA 205	1,250	DAW 1368	613		
ADA 206	1,250	DAW 1369	614		
ADA 207	1,250	DAW 1370	615		
ADA 208	1,250	DAW 1371	616		
ADA 209	1,250	DAW 1372	617		
ADA 210	1,250	DAW 1373	618		
ADA 211	1,250	DAW 1374	619		
ADA 212	1,250	DAW 1375	620		
ADA 213	1,250	DAW 1376	621		
ADA 214	1,250	DAW 1377	622		
ADA 215	1,250	DAW 1378	623		
ADA 216	1,250	DAW 1379	624		
ADA 217	1,250	DAW 1380	625		
ADA 218	1,250	DAW 1381	626		
ADA 219	1,250	DAW 1382	627		
ADA 220	1,250	DAW 1383	628		
ADA 221	1,250	DAW 1384	629		
ADA 222	1,250	DAW 1385	630		
ADA 223	1,250	DAW 1386	631		
ADA 224	1,250	DAW 1387	632		
ADA 225	1,250	DAW 1388	633		
ADA 226	1,250	DAW 1389	634		
ADA 227	1,250	DAW 1390	635		
ADA 228	1,250	DAW 1391	636		
ADA 229	1,250	DAW 1392	637		
ADA 230	1,250	DAW 1393	638		
ADA 231	1,250	DAW 1394	639		
ADA 232	1,250	DAW 1395	640		
ADA 233	1,250	DAW 1396	641		
ADA 234	1,250	DAW 1397	642		
ADA 235	1,250	DAW 1398	643		
ADA 236	1,250	DAW 1399	644		
ADA 237	1,250	DAW 1400	645		
ADA 238	1,250	DAW 1401	646		
ADA 239	1,250	DAW 1402	647		
ADA 240	1,250	DAW 1403	648		
ADA 241	1,250	DAW 1404	649		
ADA 242	1,250	DAW 1405	650		
ADA 243	1,250	DAW 1406	651		
ADA 244	1,250	DAW 1407	652		
ADA 245	1,250	DAW 1408	653		
ADA 246	1,250	DAW 1409	654		
ADA 247	1,250	DAW 1410	655		
ADA 248	1,250	DAW 1411	656		
ADA 249	1,250	DAW 1412	657		
ADA 250	1,250	DAW 1413	658		
ADA 251	1,250	DAW 1414	659		
ADA 252	1,250	DAW 1415	660		
ADA 253	1,250	DAW 1416	661		
ADA 254	1,250	DAW 1417	662		
ADA 255	1,250	DAW 1418	663		
ADA 256	1,250	DAW 1419	664		
ADA 257	1,250	DAW 1420	665		
ADA 258	1,250	DAW 1421	666		
ADA 259	1,250	DAW 1422	667		
ADA 260	1,250	DAW 1423	668		
ADA 261	1,250	DAW 1424	669		
ADA 262	1,250	DAW 1425	670		
ADA 263	1,250	DAW 1426	671		
ADA 264	1,250	DAW 1427	672		
ADA 265	1,250	DAW 1428	673		
ADA 266	1,250	DAW 1429	674		
ADA 267	1,250	DAW 1430	675		
ADA 268	1,250	DAW 1431	676		
ADA 269	1,250	DAW 1432	677		
ADA 270	1,250	DAW 1433	678		
ADA 271	1,250	DAW 1434	679		
ADA 272	1,250	DAW 1435	680		
ADA 273	1,250	DAW 1436	681		
ADA 274	1,250	DAW 1437	682		
ADA 275	1,250	DAW 1438	683		
ADA 276	1,250	DAW 1439	684		
ADA 277	1,250	DAW 1440	685		
ADA 278	1,250	DAW 1441	686		
ADA 279	1,250	DAW 1442	687		
ADA 280	1,250	DAW 1443	688		
ADA 281	1,250	DAW 1444	689		
ADA 282	1,250	DAW 1445	690		
ADA 283	1,250	DAW 1446	691		
ADA 284	1,250	DAW 1447	692		
ADA 285	1,250	DAW 1448	693		
ADA 286	1,250	DAW 1449	694		
ADA 287	1,250	DAW 1450	695		
ADA 288	1,250	DAW 1451	696		
ADA 289	1,250	DAW 1452	697		
ADA 290	1,250	DAW 1453	698		
ADA 291	1,250	DAW 1454	699		
ADA 292	1,250	DAW 1455	700		
ADA 293	1,250	DAW 1456	701		
ADA 294	1,250	DAW 1457	702		
ADA 295	1,250	DAW 1458	703		
ADA 296	1,250	DAW 1459	704		
ADA 297	1,250	DAW 1460	705		
ADA 298	1,250	DAW 1461	706		
ADA 299	1,250				

**Builders are persuading owners to part exchange their difficult-to-sell houses for new ones, just like trading in a car. So why aren't estate agents doing the same? By Anne Spackman**

The Blairs' home was on the market for £47,000. When Admiral Homes accepted it in part-exchange it was valued by two estate agents, including the one who had originally been selling the

**Brenda Grover and Tom McGuire outside the new Barratt home for which they traded in their one-bedroom flat**

Barratt is the most confident exponent of part-exchange. Last year the company sold 3,200 second-hand homes, the same

In the case of Brenda Grover and Tom McKerr, their home had been on the market 18 months and Barratt sold it within a week without lowering the price. David Price, chairman of Barratt's Southern Region, says it is not just a case of money, but of hard sales technique. "Our officers are out seven days a week, unlike most estate agents," he said. "If we can't sell someone a new house we will try to sell them a second-hand one. If it's looking a bit tired, we might do it up. We get a buyervit. And the buyer can take advantage of all the incentives we offer buyers of new houses."

So will the practice extend to estate agency in general? In the United States, realtors act for the deal rather than for one of the partners involved. In practice, many British estate agents do the same. But the long-established names feel their reputation depends on maintaining the status quo. If volumes of sales stay down, it will be interesting to see whether some decide to break rank.

**L**ibby Purves and Paul Heiney are selling their 35-acre smallholding in Middleton, Suffolk, to move to organic pastures new. Their house, Vale Farm, is a Grade II listed traditional Suffolk farmhouse, with five bedrooms and two bathrooms. Strutt & Parker is inviting offers.

**Sussex**

**\*ROYAL CRESCENT MANSIONS\***  
**\*BRIGHTON SEAFRONT\***



MAGNIFICENT GRADE II LISTED BUILDING  
WITH WEALTHY HISTORICAL FEATURES  
RESTORED TO FORM 30 SUPERB APARTMENTS  
MANY WITH BALCONIES & SEA VIEWS  
PASSENGER LIFT  
SECURE UNDERGROUND CAR-PARKING  
FOR 23 CARS  
1 & 2 BEDROOM APARTMENTS  
FROM  
£40,000 TO £129,500  
PLUS  
1 PENTHOUSE - £149,000  
**VIEWING**  
ALL SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS  
10AM TO 4PM  
SALES OFFICE: 01273 601042 (Weekends)  
HOTLINE NO: 0973 366490 (Weekends)  
**BUSINESS OBJECT**

## money

Only when we  
have read the  
obituary of the  
'small companies'  
effect a number  
of times can we  
be sure that it is  
really about to  
return to its  
former glories

There are times the stock market can be a tough and demanding taskmaster. Just when you think that you have found the key to achieving above-average performance, your fail-safe method suddenly ceases to work. In economics, they have known for years about Goodhart's Law, which lays down that any economic indicator on which the authorities choose to put heavy emphasis in framing monetary policy will immediately cease to behave in its traditional manner.

But until recently, not so many people were aware that something similar applies in the stock market, too. The latest example of this phenomenon is the so-called "small companies" effect. Any finance text book will tell you how one of the "anomalies" in stock market behaviour is the tendency of small companies to outperform larger ones, even after allowing for the additional risk involved.

The reason this is an anomaly is that, according to the theory of efficient markets, it is not a phenomenon you would expect to see recurring for any length of time. If small companies consistently pro-

vided what academics call "excess returns" (ie they outperformed the market as a whole on a risk-adjusted basis), then you would expect supply and demand to see to it that this did not last. The flock of buyers into the sector would push prices up and lead to smaller companies being valued more highly - until the scope for outperformance had in effect disappeared.

So much for the theory, which can be best summed up in its vernacular form as "there is no such thing as a free lunch in the stock market". The reason it is worth recalling now is that the small company effect, which was an observable phenomenon, seems to have disappeared in the last few years.

The evidence for this comes from Hoare Govett's *Smaller Companies Index*, a review of the way that the smallest quoted companies on the London Stock Exchange perform over time. It has been compiled for a number of years by two highly regarded academics at London Business School, Elroy Dimson and Paul Marsh. Their latest annual review of the index's performance was published this week.



JONATHAN DAVIS  
INVESTMENTS

What it shows is that the smaller companies effect is now in full-scale retreat. In the 41 years since 1955, when the data series began, the *Smaller Companies Index* has outperformed the *All-Share Index* 29 times, frequently by a handsome margin. The cumulative excess return over the whole period is just under 4 per cent per annum. The figures are: *All-Share* - annualised total return from 1955 to 1995 inclusive 14.2 per cent; *Smaller Companies* - 18 per cent. To provide a statistically fair comparison, the figures

combine capital gains and dividend income, which is assumed to have been reinvested.

But the experience of recent years has been very different. The stock-brokers Hoare Govett started to publish the index on a regular basis in the mid-1980s. For a while all went well. Smaller companies continued to outperform in 1987 and 1988. But in the next four years smaller companies underperformed bigger rivals, and while 1993 was a good year for the minnows, last year was one of the worst of all time. The total return on smaller companies in last year's bull market was nearly 10 per cent below that achieved by the *All-Share Index*.

Just as interesting is what has happened to the volatility of smaller company shares. Volatility, the extent to which prices fluctuate around their long-term average, is a measure of risk. Over the whole period 1955 to 1995, smaller companies not only outperformed their bigger brethren, but did so without involving investors in any significant extra risk. In fact, they were if anything less volatile. As long as investors hold a diversified portfolio

of small company shares, the smaller company sector held out the promise of the investor's Holy Grail: higher return for lower risk.

But even that part of the story seems to be losing its lustre. The volatility of the smaller company index has also increased, to the point where it is marginally more volatile than the *All-Share Index*. So now the prospectus seems to be: a lower return and higher risk. That, if it turns out to be new trend, is hardly the most appealing of combinations.

Spare a thought too for all the fund management companies that have launched unit trusts and investment trusts to cash in on the "small companies effect". They must be cursing the market's fickleness, although they cannot be entirely surprised at the turn of events. The fact that the effect has become so well known must be, as efficient markets theory suggests, one of the reasons it no longer works. Another explanation is that smaller companies are better researched and easier to trade than they were years ago.

But before anyone gets too gloomy, it is worth keeping the

business in perspective. All such statistical exercises are just that. The composition of the smaller companies index has changed dramatically over the years, reflecting changes in our corporate landscape, so comparisons need to be treated with care. The arrival of the privatised utilities, for example, has tilted the performance scales towards larger companies. The smaller companies index is also relatively top-heavy in sectors such as property and construction, which have struggled.

In other words, it is not difficult to find explanations for the reversal of fortune. Reading between the lines of Dimson and Marsh's latest offering, it is possible to deduce that one bright spark for the sector may be the prospect of takeover activity. The current wave of bids and deals has been largely confined to bigger companies. History suggests it may be the smaller companies' turn next.

But the main worry about the "small companies effect" must be that its disappearance is not widely enough known. Only when we have read its obituary several times can we be sure that it is finally about to return to its former glories.

## The grand-daddy of all pensions

Should everybody in work be made to contribute to a national pension scheme? By James Patterson

Every person in work, whether employed or self-employed, earning above a minimum weekly amount, will be required by law to contribute to a national pension scheme, unless they are already a member of an occupational pension scheme or are paying at least equivalent contributions into a personal pension.

This is one of the important recommendations published this week by the Retirement Income Inquiry - an independent body sponsored by the National Association of Pension Funds, which for the past two years has been reviewing pension provision in the UK.

It has received a cautious welcome from both sides of the political fence, but could well cause a storm when the implications for individuals and employers are fully understood.

The scheme would rapidly replace Serps, the cost of which falls largely on the taxpayer. But the prospects of a third compulsory deduction from pay packets on top of income tax and National Insurance may well be unpopular with individuals who presently rely entirely on state pensions.

Contributions would be 4.8 per cent of earnings - the present Serps rebate - between an upper and lower limit on earnings and be split between employee and employer in the case of the employed. But the inquiry also recommends that this contribution rate should be progressively increased to reach a more realistic rate that would provide an adequate pension. A contribution

rate of at least 10 per cent of earnings has been put forward as the minimum rate required if individuals are to receive a pension of 50 per cent of earnings. An additional contribution of up to 0.7 per cent of earnings would also be needed to fund the transition period while Serps was being phased out.

Individuals could still contribute to personal pension schemes but the national pension scheme could well reduce the role of portable schemes because few employers contribute to employees' personal pension schemes but they would be compelled to contribute to the national scheme.

Contributions paid by each individual would be invested in a variety of assets, mainly equities, accumulated in separate individual funds until retirement when the accumulated value would be used to buy an annuity to provide the pension for the individual.

As with portable pension schemes, the ultimate pension received by individuals from the proposed national pension scheme cannot be guaranteed. The amount will depend on how successful the trustees are in investing the assets (presumably the investment management will be delegated to professionals if only to avoid problems with the Financial Services Act) and annuity rates at the time of retirement, over which trustees have no control.

This is in contrast to Serps and company pension schemes, where the pension ultimately received depends only on an individual's earnings during his or her

working life and is therefore independent of stock market/property market performance and of interest rates.

The pitfalls in a scheme dependent on investment performance are many and often unseen until too late. The ultimate pension received by individuals in similar circumstances will vary simply because investment returns were different over their working lives and, equally important, annuity rates were different when the pension was bought.

The objections to the national pension scheme from individuals could well include being made to save towards their pension, particularly if the contribution rate is high and they are under financial pressure such as meeting mortgage commitments, having no control over the investment of those contributions and experiencing a fall in value when the equity market falls, and being utterly confused over buying the annuity at retirement. Men may object to women receiving equal annuities because women live longer than men.

If the ultimate pension from the national pension scheme turns out to be low at a particular time because of adverse investment performance and/or low annuity rate, there is almost certain to be a massive outcry to make up those pensions from the public purse.

Finally, the inquiry is proposing to end payment of tax-free cash sums from pension arrangements - a logical proposal, but in itself certain to ensure total hostility by the public.

This scheme will do nothing for exist-

ing pensioners on low pensions. The inquiry proposes therefore that there should be a first-tier assured pension equal to the present basic state pension plus a top-up pension to bring the total to a minimum of 20 per cent of national average earnings. This would represent the absolute minimum pension payable.

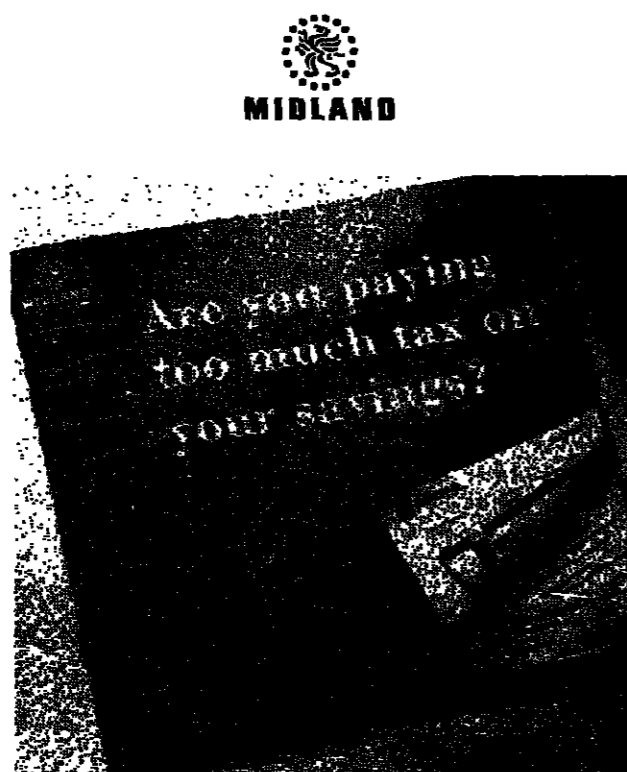
The basic element of this pension would be paid to all. But the top-up would be means-tested and progressively cut the higher an individual's overall income (capital would be ignored). This proposal may meet equally violent opposition on the grounds of means-testing, though everyone would have to provide income details before receiving the pension. Any reduction on the top-up will also upset people who claim that, because they have paid the full National Insurance contributions, they are entitled to the full pension from the state. Assured pensions will also mean substantially higher National Insurance contributions.

Someone, however, has to grasp the nettle and educate the public in the basic lesson that nobody can repeal or change the laws of economics. Higher pensions can only be paid for by the working population whether through higher taxes, or accepting lower earnings so that equity dividends can be increased to pay pensions, or both. The alternative is lower benefits.

Many countries are finding this a very difficult message to get across to a hostile public. But it has got to be done, and the sooner the better.



Pension-board: The idea of compulsory national scheme has won a cautious welcome from both sides of politics



Simple question.  
But what's the answer?

If you've got savings then you're probably paying more tax than you need to - to give you some idea, the Inland Revenue generates around two billion pounds a year this way. Our booklet, written by independent journalists, takes you through some tax

basics and explains how you can reduce tax through schemes such as Personal Equity Plans, TESSAs and personal pensions. It's available free of charge from any Midland branch or by calling us on

0800 65 65 65

The Listening Bank

Member HSBC Group

Midland plc is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and only advises on its own life assurance, pensions and unit trusts. References to taxation are based on our understanding of current legislation and tax practice. Future changes in legislation and tax practice could affect the details quoted. 12/97

## GRANDPARENTS Give your grandchildren's finances a headstart

Like all proud grandparents you will, no doubt, want to be able to give your grandchildren a headstart in life.

Whether you would like to provide for their education, or help with the purchase of their first car or first home, The Equitable Life can offer one of the best savings plans available. The Equitable With-Profits Endowment Savings Plan.

The plan provides a means of saving regularly with a lump sum at the end of a chosen term and the reassurance of built-in life cover.

For 10 Year With-Profits Endowments, The Equitable Life has achieved more top 3 placings than any other company.\*

Why have we been so consistently successful?

As a mutual society we have no shareholders to take a slice of the profits and we do not pay commission to third parties for the introduction of new business. We have shown consistently that we have the lowest expenses of any life assurance company in the UK. (Source: *Planned Savings*, October 1995)

For more information on The Equitable With-Profits Endowment Savings Plans by post and by telephone, call Aylesbury (01296) 38 48 58, or return the coupon below.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

\* Source: *Money Management* Survey of 111 year with-profits endowment policies 1974-1995

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST, WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, HUNTS (HUNTS) HP21 7BF  
To: The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BF  
I would welcome information on The Equitable With-Profits Endowment Savings Plan. INESB

NAME (Mr/Ms/Ms)

ADDRESS

Tel: (Office)

Tel: (Home)

Date of Birth



The Equitable Life  
You profit from our principles

If this feels like "yesterday" imagine receiving a TAX-FREE lump sum "tomorrow"

Start saving now with THE FAMILY BOND

- Save £15 or £25 a month - tax-free
- After 10 years you could receive a lump sum - tax-free
- Builds life cover for extra security
- Valuable free gift when you join
- Britain's largest tax-efficient friendly society with over 600,000 members

For more information fill in the coupon below and send it to: Family Assurance Friendly Society Limited, FREEPOST 2206, Brighton BN1 2BP

Call FREE on 0800 616695

LEADING THE WAY IN FAMILY FINANCE

Please send me more information on The Family Bond.

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms

Address

Postcode

Date of Birth

If you wish to receive information on The Family Bond, a tax-free savings plan for children under 16 - then please tick this box ☐

Send the coupon to: Family Assurance Friendly Society Limited, FREEPOST 2206, 16-17 West Street, Brighton BN1 2BP

We may use your name to promote other products offered by the Society. If you do not wish to receive this information please tick this box ☐

We may telephone you to part of our customer services programme. If you do not wish to be contacted in this way please tick this box ☐

Family Assurance Friendly Society Limited is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and incorporated under the Friendly Societies Act 1992 (Reg. No. 9281)

13907

## Best borrowing rates

Telephone	% Rate and period	Max adv %	Fee	Incentive	Redemption penalty
<b>MORTGAGES</b>					
<b>Fixed rates</b>					
Hickley & Rugby	0800 774499	0.50 to 1/2/97	70	£250	3 yrs unemployment ins
1st Mortgage Soc	0800 080088	6.99 to 1/3/01	75	£275	1st 5 yrs: indiv determined
<b>Variable rates</b>					
Scarbrough BS	0800 590547	1.09 for 1 year	95	—	To 1/3/01: 6 mths interest
Halifax BS	01422 333333	3.99 to 30/4/98	90	—	1st 5 yrs: rebate reclaimed & 6.1% of sum repaid
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	4.44 to 1/5/99	95	—	To 30/4/01: 7% of advance
<b>First time buyers fixed rates</b>					
Bristol & West BS	0800 100117	0.95 to 31/1/97	90	£275	1st 6 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	5.99 to 1/3/99	95	£295	To 31/1/01: 9/8/6 mths int
<b>First time buyers variable rates</b>					
Northern Rock BS	0800 591500	1.19 to 1/5/97	90	—	1st 6 yrs: 5% of sum repaid
Merchandise BS	0191 295 9550	4.24 to 1/4/98	90	£195	Refund valuation fee

## PERSONAL LOANS

Telephone	APR	Fixed monthly payments (£3,000 over 3 years)
<b>Unsecured</b>		
Direct Line	0141 248 9966	14.90E
Midland Bank	0800 180180	15.40
<b>Secured (second charge)</b>		
Clydesdale Bank	0800 240024	8.60
Royal Bank of Scotland	Via branch	9.30

## OVERDRAFTS

Telephone	Account	Authorized % pm	Unauthorized % pm
Woolwich BS	0800 400900	Current	0.76
Alliance & Leicester BS	0500 959595	Alliance	0.76

## CREDIT CARDS

Telephone	Card	Min income	Rate % pm	APR %	Annual fee
<b>Standard</b>					
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	0.94G	11.80
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	—	1.00	14.60
Royal Bank of Scotland	0800 151616	MasterCard	—	1.14	14.50
<b>Gold cards</b>					
Co-operative Bank	0345 212212	Visa	£20,000	0.5208M	10.80
Royal Bank of Scotland	01702 362890	Visa	£20,000	1.05	14.50

## STORE CARDS

Telephone	Payment by direct debit % pm	APR	Payment by other methods % pm	APR
John Lewis	Via store	—	1.39	18.00
Arks and Spencer	01244 681681	1.87A	1.97A	26.30

APR: Annualised percentage rate.  
 A: 1.55% (19.9% APR) for o/s bal over £1K.  
 B: Available to comprehensive motor insurance policyholders aged over 22 years.  
 C: Annual fee waived after first year if EAK+ charged to card during previous year.  
 All rates subject to change without notice. MONEYFACTS 01632 500677

## Best savings rates

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>INSTANT ACCESS</b>					
Portman BS	01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.80
Teachers BS	0800 378669	Instant	Instant	£500	5.55
Co-operative Bank	0345 253000	Instant	Instant	£5,000	5.37

## INSTANT ACCESS POSTAL ACCOUNTS

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Britannia BS	01538 392808	Capital Trust	Postal	£2,000	5.15
Bristol & West BS	0800 303330	Direct Savings	Postal	£5,000	5.75
Bristol & West BS	0800 303330	Direct Savings	Postal	£10,000	5.80

## NOTICE ACCOUNTS &amp; BONDS

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
C&G	0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day P	£1,000	6.50
C&G	0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day P	£10,000	6.75
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Postal 120	120 day P	£25,000	7.20

## MONTHLY INTEREST

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Co-operative Bank	0345 252000	Pathfinder	Instant	£5,000	5.37
C&G	0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day P	£5,000	6.31
C&G	0500 246810	Direct 30	30 day P	£10,000	6.55

## FIXED RATE BONDS

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
West Bromwich BS	0900 143668	Guaranteed Growth	31/1/97	£5,000	6.80F
Frizzell Bank	0800 373191	Fixed Rate	2 yr bond	£2,500	6.75F
Leeds & Holbeck BS	0113 245 9511	3 Way Bond	4 yr bond	£5,000	6.80F

## CHEQUE ACCOUNTS

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Robert Fleming/S&P	0800 829024	Higher Rate Deposit	Instant	£1,000	5.25
Kleinwort Benson	01202 502404	HICA	Instant	£2,500	5.50
Alliance & Leicester BS	0116 271 7272	Alliance	Instant	£5,000	5.00
Northern Rock BS	0500 505000	Current A/C Gold	Instant	£10,000	5.27

## GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS (net)

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	1 year	£5,000	4.50FN	Year
Financial Assurance	0181 380 3388	2 year	£5,000	4.80FN	Year
Pinnacle Insurance	0161 207 9007	5 year	£3,000	6.20FN	Year

## OFFSHORE (gross)

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
Newcastle Bank, Gibraltar	00 350 76168	Nova Access	Instant	£5,000	6.10
Portman CI Ltd	01481 822747	Gold Plus	90 day	£5,000	6.45
B'ham Midshires, Guern	01481 700680	Fixed Account	31.1.99	£5,000	7.25F

## NATIONAL SAVINGS (net)

Telephone number	Account	Notice or term	Deposit	Rate %	Interest interval
<b>Investment Account</b>					
		1 month	£20	£20	5.25
			£500	5.75	Year
			£25,000	6.00	Year
<b>Income Bond</b>					
		3 month	£2,000	6.50	Month
			£25,000	6.75	Month
<b>Capital Bond</b>					
		Series 1	5 year	£100	6.65 F
			12 month	£1,000	6.25 F
				£20,000	6.50 F
<b>Pensioner's 6 Year Income Bond</b>					
		Series 3	5 year	£500	7.00 F

NS Certificates (tax-free)  
 43rd issue  
 9th Index linked  
 Children's Bond  
 Issue H  
 P: post only  
 N: net rate  
 All rates are shown gross and are subject to change without notice. MONEYFACTS 01632 500677. 26 January 1996

FEAR OF FINANCE  
Clifford German

It is generally a bad sign when no one wants money, and no one seems to want to pay for it at the moment. In the last six months expectations have swung from an imminent increase to further falls in base rates. Building societies in particular are again shaving mortgage rates, especially on fixed-rate loans, simply to try to get their money out on loan before rates fall further. Some of the societies targeted by speculators opening accounts are stuffed with cash they cannot use in their mortgage business.

Banks and building societies are busy cutting rates on deposit accounts and the rush to put rollover money into fixed-rate Tessa has been so heavy that the best offers have been able to replace their offers with lower rates.

Rates on guaranteed annual and monthly income bonds have also dropped perceptibly in the past week alone, and savers who were grumbling about the poor returns on their money last year will be even more disgruntled now. The benefits promised to savers from a reduction in the tax rate on interest and dividends from 25 per cent to 20 per cent from April has already been eaten up.

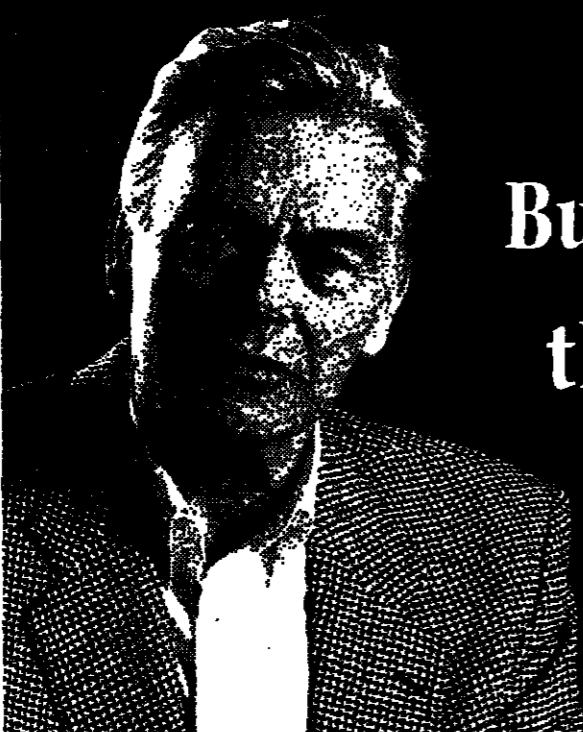
Even the National Savings movement is in on the act. The demand for Pensioners' Bonds paying fixed returns for five years has been so brisk since the Chancellor cut the age qualification from 65 to 60 in the Budget that he has been able to cut the return on future sales from 7.5 per cent to 7 per cent.

There is also no doubt that the Treasury will save money as a result of the reshuffle to Premium Bonds and prizes. Although the public is invited to focus on the fact that the number of £1m prizes is not being reduced, the fact is the total prize fund is being cut from 5.2 per cent to 4.75 per cent of the money in the pool.

There is, of course, no guarantee that rates will not rise again within the five-year time-frame of most fixed-rate offers, and for savers the message is clear. The rewards for taking a given amount of risk by investing in fixed-interest securities, unit trusts, investment trusts and shares, especially inside a tax-free PEP package, are on the increase.

Interest rates in the UK after deducting inflation have been uncomfortably high for years but a fall in demand for credit is almost always a bad sign. Even the brisk demand for consumer credit does not seem to have done much for retail trade so far.

"I could choose any index PEP.



But why pay more than I have to?"

MoneyBuilder Range  
No Better Value

There are many index PEPs out there. But can they offer unbeatable value?

With Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Index PEP, it costs you less to invest your PEP allowance in the UK's top 100 companies quoted in the FTSE 100 Index. There are no entry or exit charges. A low annual management fee of just 0.5%. And best of all, tax-free returns.

Add MoneyBuilder Index to your portfolio by talking to the world's largest independent investment management company, Fidelity. For a better deal, we think you'll agree it's the only real choice.

The fixed price offer on MoneyBuilder Index closes on 31.1.96. So for your free information pack, call Fidelity now on the number above.

The value of units and income from them may go down as well as up, and an investor may not get back the amount invested. If you call Fidelity and you receive advice that will only relate to the products offered by Fidelity Investment Services Limited or a member of its marketing group. Tax assumptions may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP will depend on individual circumstances. The Fidelity PEP is offered and managed by Fidelity Investments Limited, regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. IDAF

For those who would like independent financial advice, Fidelity products are also available through independent financial advisers.

Fund Manager	Entry charge	Exit charge	Annual charge	Charge after 5 years
Gartmore	0%	0%	1.00%	£300
Virgin	0%	0%	1.00%	£300
Morgan Grenfell	3.00%	0%	0.75%	£398
Lloyds Bank	6.00%	0%	1.00%	£642

Figures taken from a selection of other tracking PEPs. Figures based on Fidelity's research as at 15.1.96. It is assumed that there is no capital growth.

0800 41 41 71  
Call free 9am-6pm, Open 7 days.  
Or contact us on <http://www.fid-intl.com/uk>



Take a wiser line with your money.

# Choosing your PEP? Make it the best.

## The Schroder UK Growth PEP

For a limited period only, you can benefit from a new opportunity to invest in the Schroder UK Growth PEP. This PEP will invest in the top performing Schroder UK Growth Fund plc\*. The offer of new shares and warrants is expected to open on 6th February 1996. For every five new shares you purchase, you will receive one new warrant at no extra charge.

Schroder UK Growth Fund plc is managed aggressively, to achieve higher returns than the normal equity-invested fund. It does this by focusing on fewer stocks than usual, all of which demonstrate high growth potential. This approach has certainly paid off so far: those who invested £6,000 when the Schroder UK Growth PEP was originally launched in March 1994 have already seen their investment grow by over £1,700\*\*.

This new offer will only be available between 6th and 29th February 1996.

For details, call 0800 002 000 or return this coupon. Alternatively, contact your usual financial adviser. Details will be sent out shortly after 6th February.

Sources: \*Micropal, UK investment trust capital growth sector, mid price to mid price, net income reinvested from 25.4.94 to 29.12.95. Schroder UK Growth Fund plc 1st out of 8.  
 \*\*Schroders, gross income reinvested from 10.3.94 to 29.12.95.

Call  
0800 002  
000

TO: SCHRODERS, CUSTOMER SERVICES DEPT, 01301 FREEPOST, LON 7109 LONDON EC4B 4PD.  
 Please send me my free brochure on the Schroder UK Growth PEP.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The value of investments and the income from them may fall as well as rise and investors may not get back the amount originally invested. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation may change. Tax reliefs referred to are those currently available and their value depends on the circumstances of the individual investor. Investment in warrants involves a high degree of gearing such that a relatively small movement in the price of the underlying shares to which the warrants relate may result in a disproportionately large movement, unfavourable as well as favourable, in the price of the warrants.



Schroders

Issued by Schroder Investment Management Limited, regulated by IMRO. Registered office: 33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AS.

## money

## New plans to care for the elderly are unlikely to keep the wolf from your door

By Clifford German

The consultation document on the future of long-term care for the elderly announced by the Chancellor in the last Budget is likely to be published by Easter. But the proposals are unlikely to take effect before April 1997 at the earliest, and any hopes they will guarantee comfortable middle-class families against the need to sell their parental homes to pay for care are likely to be dashed.

The proposed partnership between private insurers and the state to underwrite the cost of care in a nursing home is likely to be targeted firmly at families with assets of up to £60,000, including the family home, who cannot be expected to buy long-term care insurance from their own resources.

The two front-running schemes which the Department of Health and experts on long-term care in the insurance industry are studying are versions of the dollar-for-dollar guarantees – as used in several American states, notably Connecticut – and the time limit scheme that operates in New York state.

Dollar-for-dollar schemes work on the basis that individuals who buy, say, \$50,000 worth of private insurance protection will be able to ring-fence that amount of assets and claim support from the state once they have used the proceeds of their insurance and run their own assets down to

that figure. Time limit schemes require individuals to insure their care costs in full for a specific period, three years in New York, after which the state will take over the full cost of further care indefinitely.

Oliver Heald, a junior minister at the DSS, went to the US last month to study the respective schemes, leading figures in the private health-care insurance business are being consulted and a briefing paper is being prepared for circulation to all MPs.

Peter Gatenby, appointed actuary at PPP Lifetime Care, the market leader in the infant private long-term care insurance market, believes the approved UK scheme will combine the characteristics of the two US versions.

Individuals who take out a private health-care policy plan could buy basic cover for a minimum period in a nursing home, and that would entitle them, once the policy had been exhausted, to claim support from the state or local authority as soon as their own savings had been run down to the guaranteed level.

The average stay in a nursing home is only two or three years, but the state guarantee would allow insurance companies to reduce significantly the premiums on private policies and make private insurance more affordable.

The protection would be additional to the existing level of protected assets which

will double to £16,000 in April this year. But in order to keep down the cost of the safety net to the taxpayer, state support would be means-tested and the qualifying level at which individuals could claim from the state would be capped at around £60,000 of assets.

That level will be chosen to represent the value of the average house. Investors with larger assets would not be eligible for the support on the grounds that they could afford their own policies or their own care costs.

The consultation document will not offer any tax concessions to policyholders to help them pay their policy premiums, and the industry recognises that very few of the individuals who are likely to need long-term health-care insurance can easily afford it. In the past five years only around 9,000 policies have been sold, two thirds of them by PPP.

Premiums on existing long-term care policies are substantial. For £1,000 a month of support indexed for up to 5 per cent annual inflation, a male aged 45 would pay a lump sum of £6,436, or £30 a month, until a claim is made; for a woman the cost would be £11,310, or £36 a month. At 60 a man would pay £8,695, or £53 a month, a woman £14,640, or £62 a month; and at 80 a man would have to pay £11,383, or £150 a month, and a woman £17,500, or

£245 a month. And claims are only triggered by medical need. Even with state backing the cost of insurance, especially for the 50- and 60-year-olds – whose need is the most immediate – will run into several thousand pounds.

For most individuals who will qualify for the state partnership scheme their homes are their only significant assets apart from a pension. In order to fund a wider take-up of private long-term care policies it may still be necessary for many individuals to earmark their pension lump sum or take out an equity release scheme that will require them to surrender some of the equity in their home to buy a policy.

Even if the outline of the Government's proposals are published within weeks and win largely bi-partisan support in the House of Commons, there is a real possibility that legislation could be overtaken by an election and delayed another two years.

Since time is of the essence in taking out insurance policies – and premiums escalate sharply the older the individual is when the policy is taken out – PPP Lifetime Care is actively marketing policies with a guarantee that if the rules are changed to reflect the introduction of Government support their premiums will be amended, or they will be allowed to switch to a more appropriate product.

ONLY FROM LEGAL & GENERAL

# TWO PEPs for the price of ONE

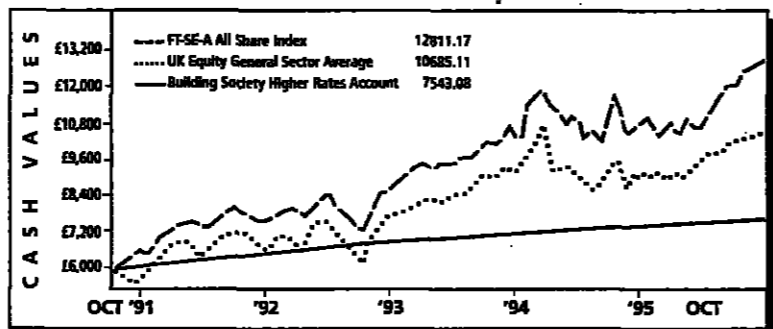
Two PEPs for the price of one – you won't get this from anyone else!

We already offer our Index-Tracking PEP investors the lowest charges around. NO initial charges; NO withdrawal fees; and a management charge of only 0.5% per annum.

But now we want to do even more than that. So, when you take out our Index-Tracking PEP for 1995/6 and 1996/7, we will abolish ALL charges for the whole of the first year of your 1995/6 PEP.

That's two PEPs: just one set of charges; and we guarantee you won't pay less anywhere!

The FTSE-100 Share Index: consistently ahead of the market.



The FTSE-100 Share Index makes no allowance for our management charges which are applicable to a PEP but our charges would not significantly affect the performance disparity. Capital and interest rates in a Building Society Account are guaranteed.

**NO  
INITIAL CHARGES  
NO  
WITHDRAWAL FEES  
AND A  
FREE PEP  
FOR A YEAR**

And our performance is hard to beat.

Our PEP tracks the FTSE-100 All-Share Index, the broadest measure of the UK stock market.

Over the last five years the

Index has risen by 113% – that's a 35% higher return than the average unit trust. In fact most actively managed funds fail to match the FTSE-100 All-Share Index with any consistency\*.

Invest before April 5th for our 2-for-1 PEP offer.

To invest – or to transfer funds from an existing PEP – ring us now on 0800 11 66 22 (your call is free). Or return the coupon today for more information.

\*Source: Micropal. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Both capital and income values may go down as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. All statements are correct as at 22.01.96. Full written details are available on request. Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited. Registered in England No. 1009418. Registered Office: Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4N 4TB. Regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority.

**CALL 0800 11 66 22 FREE**

DAYS A WEEK 8AM TO 10PM. PLEASE QUOTE REF. TP171

Post to: Legal & General (Unit Trust Managers) Limited, FREEPOST KT4 474, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey KT2 6BR. Please send me full written details of the Legal & General Index-Tracking PEP.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

TELEPHONE NO.

If you already have any PEP investment, please tick here ☐

We never make your name and address available to unconnected organisations. We will occasionally tell you about other products or services offered by ourselves and associate Legal & General Companies. Please tick this box if you would prefer not to receive this information. ☐



trust us to deliver



loose change

Mortgage rates are edging down again, with widespread reductions in fixed rates and discount rates and a few variable rates. Bradford & Bingley is pioneering the fight-back by mutual building societies by cutting standard variable mortgage rates to a market-leading 7.24 per cent from 1 March and simultaneously raising savings rates to an average 0.5 per cent above equivalent rates from Halifax and Abbey National.

Alliance & Leicester has introduced new cheaper fixed-rate mortgages for one, two, three and five-year periods. The one-year rate is 1.95 per cent for up to 95 per cent of loan to value. Redemption fees of six months interest will be charged if the one, two and three-year mortgages are redeemed before February 2001, and the five-year before 2002.

Northern Rock is launching a new two-year fixed rate mortgage at 3.99 per cent, or 5.99 per cent fixed for three years, a 6.25 discount on the standard variable rate of 7.44 per cent for one year or a 3 per cent discount for two years, all with redemption penalties of 5 per cent during the first six years. A 6 per cent cash-back is available on a variable rate mortgage of 7.19 per cent with a 6 per cent penalty for redemption in the first six years.

First Mortgage is launching a new five-year fixed rate mortgage at 6.99 per cent for loans up to 75 per cent of valuation, available until 16 February. A booking fee of £275 is charged and a six-month interest penalty is charged for redemption within the five years.

Britannia BS is offering first-time buyers a one-year discount of 2.75 per cent plus a 3 per cent cash-back up to £6,000, a refund of valuation fee up to £400 and free unemployment protection insurance for a year. Britannia BS and Winterthur Life are offering a two-year fixed rate of 5.99 per cent for mortgages up to 95 per cent of valuation, with free valuation, no legal fees and a four-week completion period.

General Accident Life has extended the availability of its package of Flexi Mortgages, based on Newcastle BS products, which range from a 5 per cent cash-back and no discount to a 5 per cent discount and no cash-back.

## Want a high performing low cost pension?

Our regular contribution with-profits pension plan appeared in the top ten in all five investment performance league tables according to a survey carried out by Money Marketing (with-profits survey, May 1995).

Of course, that's just one set of results – we'd be glad to show you our record over many years.

But having such excellent performance is what you might expect from a company that has an international reputation for keeping costs under control. In October, Money Management showed the effects of our changes in our with-profits pension to be the lowest of all the companies surveyed.

In fact, the effect of other companies' charges were, on average, 103% more, while in the worst case they were 209% more. (Source: Money Management, October 1995, £200pm 10 year personal pension plans).

So, if you would like to learn about The Equitable's high performance, low cost personal pension plan by post and by telephone, return the coupon below or call Aylesbury (01296) 38 48 38.

Past performance is no guarantee of future performance.

Information/advice will only be given on Equitable group products

Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority

THE EQUITABLE LIFE, FREEPOST WALTON STREET, AYLESBURY, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HP21 7BR

For The Equitable Life, FREEPOST, Walton Street, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7BR

I would welcome details on The Equitable's pension plans. I am self-employed ☐ INRCA

I am an employee not in a company pension scheme ☐ INRCA

NAME (Mr/Ms/Miss)

ADDRESS

Tel (Office)

Tel (Home)

Date of Birth

Postcode

Please tick this box if you would prefer not to receive this information. ☐

**The Equitable Life**

You profit from our principles

# Scandinavia is hot. For the moment

Consistent growth is making Finland, Sweden and Norway look impressive. By Alison Eadie

**M**organ Grenfell's European Growth Trust has a somewhat freewheeling approach to investment. It does not try to outperform stock market indices, but looks for value wherever it can be found on the Continent and, now and then, in the UK.

The result has been impressive. The £640m fund, a unit trust that can be invested in a PEP, has outperformed its peers since it was launched in 1988, according to Miroslav.

It is first in the European sector over the last five years and second over one year, behind Europa, Morgan Grenfell's European small companies fund.

The search for value means whole countries and sectors can be in or out of favour. At the moment Scandinavia is in, particularly Finland. A hefty 40 per cent of the fund is invested in Norway, Sweden and Finland.

Peter Young, manager of European Growth, says good-quality, non-cyclical growth companies in Finland are selling at prices of only seven to eight times this year's expected earnings. Cyclical stocks such as paper are selling on only five times this year's earnings. By contrast German stocks are selling on 15 times 1996 earnings and French stocks on 13.5 times.

Although Mr Young accepts that German and French stocks are better value than they were – their price-earnings ratios are usually higher – he is wary. For the past year, the fund has held only two stocks in Germany. Its total holdings presently number 65 and 80 is the maximum.

The fund's flexibility is its strength. Mr Young points out that European stock markets are not as developed as those in the UK and US, and information flow is a much more hit-and-miss affair. There are therefore bigger anomalies to be found in valuations of companies.

Fundamental research and company visits are the cornerstone of European Growth's approach. Although information is not automatically dished out, as in the UK, through ever more frequent trading statements, it can still be ferreted out.

Mr Young says Continental companies often give large shareholders information that UK companies would not divulge. Their interpretation of insider trading laws and the need to treat all investors equally is different. Instead

of the UK approach that all shareholders must be told if one is told, Continentals will answer directly to the questioner but feel no obligation to inform the rest. If anyone else were to ask, they would also be told.

The advantage of superior knowledge means there is a temptation to overweight the fund when the opportunities look good. To minimise the price risk, no more than 30 per cent of assets are allocated to one country and no more than 8 per cent to one stock, says Mr Young.

Only two holdings are allowed to reach the 8 per cent ceiling and both must be easily tradable. As with countries, the fund dips in and out of sectors. It has virtually nothing in the consumer sector at the moment and very little in oil other than a couple of Russian stocks. Two years ago it was heavily weighted in luxury goods and now has a high proportion of computer and high-tech stocks.

Mr Young explains: "As a house we don't like funds with restricted mandates. We like the fund manager to roam, to find value."

High-tech favourites include the Finnish telecommunications company Nokia – one of the 8 per cent stocks – and German software company SAP.

The fund topped up on its Nokia holdings when the price recently halved from its peak, and even at prevailing prices is showing a fivefold gain on the purchase price.

SAP has similarly suffered a share-price bashing after one quarter's bad results. Mr Young points out: "We are in a good position to buy when panic selling sets in as we know the companies so well." SAP's shares, despite their setback, have increased tenfold since the fund first bought them.

Finding value can mean smallish holdings suddenly become very big ones. Mr Young this month found himself selling a large chunk of British Biotech, the fund's only UK holding, even though he believes the share price will continue heading north.

Having bought at an average price of £5 a share, the fund took profits at close to £18.

The spectacular and sudden rise in price meant British Biotech represented 13 per cent of the fund's assets. This is against unit trust (10 per cent maximum per stock) and Morgan Grenfell's own rules, so the holding was trimmed to 5 per cent of assets.

Mr Young dismisses fears that its price rise has been overdone. "Forget where it has been," he cautions. "Investment must always be forward-looking."

As well as successes, there have been disappointments. EVC (European Vinyls Corporation), the joint venture between ICI and Enichem that floated on the Amsterdam stock market in November 1994, has not lived up to expectations. It is presently trading around 50 guilders against an issue price of 77 guilders.

European Growth's eclectic style does not lend itself to narrow specialisms. As a result Morgan Grenfell's 14-strong European team are all generalists. The approach is helpful in controlling risk, says Mr Young.

There is no over-dependency on one person and investment decisions are subject to peer review rather than review by a senior person who may not know the markets as well.

Valuation methods involve looking at balance sheets, free cash flows, price-earnings ratios and other standard analytical tools. Much hangs on whether management is telling a believable story, says Mr Young.

The outlook for European investment is reasonably healthy, he believes. Despite the slowdown of the last quarter, there is scope for earnings growth this year.

Although there is theoretically plenty of scope for cost-cutting in European companies, Mr Young warns against expecting too much. The strength of social consensus will ensure that employees continue to enjoy a sizeable share of corporate wealth.

"It is almost impossible to exaggerate the degree of cultural difference between the US and parts of Europe. A lot of potential value will never go to shareholders," says Mr Young. This is more true of bigger, older industries, such as metal-bashing, than newer industries such as computers, he adds.

Scandinavia remains the favourite investment market, but the fund will continue to pick and choose in several markets.

Mr Young sees no difficulty with the fund growing in size. "We still have more good ideas than cash to invest."

European Growth Trust Morgan Grenfell Asset Management, 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT. Telephone: 0171-588 7171



Attractive prospects: Good-quality growth stocks in Scandinavia are selling at bargain prices

WITAN  
PEP  
FREE  
MANAGEMENT  
OFFER

## A good old fashioned special offer from a long established investment trust

Witan Investment Company plc is one of Britain's oldest and largest investment trusts, with assets of £1.2 billion\* and a history of producing good, steady returns.

Through the Witan PEP you can enjoy the international spread of investments and splendid growth potential of Witan investment trust – with all returns absolutely tax free.

And if you invest the full annual PEP allowance of £6,000 as a lump sum in the Witan PEP between now and 27 March 1996, we will waive the annual PEP management fee until 30 March 1997. For further details, please call us now at local rate, or return the coupon below.

☎ 0345 88 11 44

(Quoting the reference WITPEP 13)

\* Source: AITC Services Ltd to 28.12.95

To: HTR Investor Services, FREEPOST, Newbury, RG13 1BR.

To find out how you can enjoy all the potential of a leading international investment trust, tax free through the Witan PEP please complete and return this coupon.

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Initial(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Ref: WITPEP 13

Please tick the box if you do not wish to receive information about other HTR products and services ☐



Henderson Touche Remnant Investment Trust Management is a division of Henderson Financial Management Limited, registered in England No 006355, regulated by HMRO and the Personal Investment Authority, which is a subsidiary of the Henderson Administration Group plc of 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA. Past performance is no guide to the future. The value of a PEP and the income from it, can go down as well as up as a result of market or currency fluctuations and you may not get back the amount originally invested. Taxes relating to PEPs may change if the law changes and the value of tax relief will depend on your circumstances.

## When one door opens, another closes

Investors in Tessas need nimble wits and quick reflexes to catch the best offers

**N**orthern Rock has closed its fixed rate follow-up Tessa account paying 7.64 per cent, but the variable rate account paying 8 per cent on the maximum £9,000, 7.5 per cent on other balances down to £3,000 remains available.

West Bromwich Building Society has withdrawn its follow-up Tessa offering 7.55 per cent fixed for the next five years "following unprecedented demand", and replaced it with a 7.35 per cent fixed rate.

The West Brom claims this

remains the best fixed-rate Tessa available, topping 7.30 per cent at Yorkshire Building Society and Bradford & Bingley, 7.22 per cent at the TSB and 7 per cent at Barclays Bank.

Leeds & Holbeck BS has launched an escalator Tessa for maturing £9,000 Tessas. It will pay 6 per cent in the first year rising to 6.2 per cent in year two, 6.5 per cent in year three, 7.2 per cent in year four and 9 per cent in the final year.

Ipswich Building Society has increased its rates for

maturing Tessas to 7.25 per cent for existing customers, 7 per cent for transfers from other providers.

Alliance & Leicester has introduced two new investment accounts, which do not qualify for membership of the society, to replace qualifying accounts withdrawn last week. Prime 90 Deposit account will pay 4.1 per cent on amounts from £1,000 to £5,000, 6.1 per cent up to £10,000 and 6.60 per cent up to 325,000 The Tessa deposit account pays 6.1 per cent (variable) on amounts be-

tween £500 and £3,000, 6.20 per cent up to £4,800 and 7.25 per cent on the maximum £9,000 rollover account.

Skipton Building Society has increased the minimum investment needed to open a share account which makes the investor a voting member of the society to £2,500.

"This is one decision the society would have preferred not to make, but we have a business to run," Skipton's chief executive, John Goodfellow, said. "The society has no intention to convert or be acquired."

Want  
high perfor  
low cos  
pension

## PENSIONS MADE SIMPLE.

Advice you can Trust  
Directly by telephone 24 hours a day

0345 6789 10

Issued by Scottish Widows' Fund and Life Assurance Society, a mutual company. Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. Information/advice will only be provided on Scottish Widows products

SCOTTISH WIDOWS



## staying in



## Television

by Gerard Gilbert

Horizon 8pm BBC2. Are current environmental predictions alarmist? Meet some conservationists who think they are - and dangerous to boot (349356).

Classic Cars 8.30pm C4. We've had Classic Cars, Classic Trucks and Classic Bikes - now the ships and yachts that inspire. DJ John Peel, a little odd, is the narrator (3165).

Cutting Edge 9pm C4 (above). The stories of four people who blew the whistle on illegality and malpractice (9436).

## Radio

by Adrian Turpin

Tahiti in a Cold Climate (8.45pm R4). St Kilda, a wind-cursed hunk of granite, 50 miles west of the Outer Hebrides, must be one of the most inhospitable islands ever lived on. This documentary explores the island's sorrowful history.

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

## Sunday Television and Radio

## BBC1

- 7.05 Match of the Day - the Road to Wembley (R) (S) (7314461).
- 8.15 Suenos - World Spanish (4198374).
- 9.30 Breakfast with Frost (81138).
- 10.30 The Big Question. Mark Lawson talks to Lynda La Plante (S) (3007022).
- 9.45 First Light. Liberal Democrat MP David Alton discusses his faith (S) (451490).
- 10.15 See Hear (S) (506729).
- 10.45 The French Experience (S) (163935).
- 11.00 The 11th Hour. New tricks for old dogs (S) (48664).
- 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490).
- 12.30 On the Record (41003).
- 1.30 EastEnders Omnibus (S) (5103480).
- 2.55 Australian Open Tennis. Highlights of this morning men's final (4367480).
- 3.45 Match of the Day - the Road to Wembley. Live coverage of the FA Cup fourth-round tie between Sheffield United and Aston Villa (S) (59927461).
- 6.05 News, Weather (602664).
- 6.25 Local News (40835).
- 6.30 Songs of Praise. Sir Harry Secombe visits Dumfries (S) (722041).
- 7.05 Antiques Roadshow. From Stirling University, where finds include a first edition of Beatrix Potter's *Peter Rabbit* (S) (691732).
- 7.50 Pie in the Sky. Fisher asks Crabbe to investigate the rising number of garden thefts in Middleton, forcing him to team up with the National Horticultural Division (S) (695119).
- 8.40 News, Weather (731480).
- 9.00 A Mug's Game. Excellent new drama from Donna Franchischi, who gave us one of the best new dramas of last year, *Takin' Over the Asylum*, set on Scotland's west coast. See Preview, p28 (301409).
- 9.55 Ruby Wax Meets Imelda Marcos. The title says it all, as La Wax takes a new series of celebrity interviews. See Preview, p28 (S) (747848).
- 10.45 Everyman. The returning series takes a look at Christian Channel Europe, the first American-style religious satellite channel in Europe. See Preview, p28 (591916).
- 11.35 *Under Fire* (Roger Spottiswoode 1983 US). Photo-journalist Nick Nolte goes on assignment to Nicaragua to cover the Sandanista revolution against President Somoza and abandons his neutrality. A smart, well thought-out film, co-starring Gene Hackman, Joanna Cassidy, Ed Harris (as an American mercenary) and Jean-Louis Trintignant as a sleazy Frenchman working for the CIA (437157).
- 1.35 Weather (2740078). To 1.40am.

## BBC2

- 7.30 Children's BBC. Rupert. 7.35 The Adventures of Skippy. 8.00 Playdays. 8.20 Grimm. 8.35 Jackanory. Here We Go! 8.50 Felix the Cat. 9.10 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles. 9.35 Phantom 2040. 9.55 Highly Sprung! 10.25 Grange Hill. 10.50 Agent Z and the Penguin from Mars. 11.15 As Seen on TV.
- 11.45 Star Trek (R) (1222393).
- 12.35 Fantasy Football League. Dani Behr and Danny Baker are the fantasy managers (6288393).
- 1.05 Singled Out. US dating game (3262645).
- 1.30 Regional Programmes (34374).
- 2.00 *Mr. Mind* (William Wyler 1942 US). You can either laugh at this idealised Hollywood version of middle-class British stoicism in the teeth of the Blitz, or you can ditch the propaganda, ignore the accents and enjoy it at face value - as well-staged melodrama, starring Greer Garson as the housewife superstar, holding her chin high as husband and son go to war (46017157).
- 4.10 *Slid* (Sweden). The men's downhill from Sestriere in Italy (S) (8179129).
- 4.55 Rugby Special. Fifteen-round highlights from the Fillingim Cup, including Newcastle vs Harlequins (S) (1993515).
- 5.55 Natural World. Wildlife in the Arctic (S) (149374).
- 6.45 The Big Trip. Continuing the travelogue series following three couples as they make long journeys in different parts of the world. This week, Andrew and Matt reach Guyana, while Helen and Alison are still in Thailand (S) (432916).
- 7.30 Timewatch. How Sir Francis Drake met his end. See Preview, p28 (793799).
- 8.20 In Search of Power (213799).
- 9.10 The Tourist. History of the holiday camp - that invention of the 1950s. Sir Fred Pontin and Lady Bunting are among those interviewed (49057).
- 10.00 *Leaving Normal* (Edward Zwick 1992 US). Bored housewife Christine Lahti and world-weary waitress Meg Tilly meet by chance in the town of Normal, Wyoming and decide to decamp to Alaska (S) (983119).
- 11.50 Weatherview (814409).
- 11.55 *He Walked by Night* (Alfred Werker, Anthony Mann 1948 US). Richard Basehart is terrific as a psychopathic thief and electronics wizard who keeps tabs on the police by monitoring their radios in this cultish, strikingly photographed B-class (723734). To 1.15am.
- 2.00 The Learning Zone. To 7.00am.
- REGIONS. 1.30pm Welsh Lobby. 4.55 Scrums 5. 11.30pm Now We're Talking. 1.55 Our Roving Reporter.

## ITV/London

- 6.00 GMTV. 6.00 The Sunday Review. 6.30 News and Sport. 7.00 The Sunday Programme (13044).
- 8.00 Disney Club. Guests are the singer Johnna and rugby player Kyran Bracken (S) (3190480).
- 10.15 Link. How disabled people are portrayed in literature (S) (7013041).
- 10.30 Sunday Matters. Can God and science exist side-by-side? Sue Cook and Roger Bolton ponder the imponderable. Including 11.00 Morning Worship from St Anthony's, Beeston, Leeds (S) (84732).
- 12.30 Crosswalk (62157).
- 1.00 News, Weather (28747664).
- 1.10 Jonathan Dimbleby. Dimbleby and his studio audience cross-examine another public figure (2768377).
- 2.00 *The Trail of the Incredible Hulk* (Bill Bixby 1989 US). They said it. Bill Bixby stars (21157).
- 3.30 *Dr No* (Terence Young 1962 UK). The first and most faithful of the James Bond adaptations sent 007 Sean Connery to Jamaica. The one where Ursula Andress walked out of the sea and into movie stardom (34225).
- 5.30 London Tonight (412515).
- 5.50 News, Weather (781157).
- 6.05 *Captain Ron* (Thom Eberhardt 1992 US). Disney comedy that ought to be made to walk the plank. Martin Short buys an old boat and hires sozzled pilot Kurt Russell to take his family to the Caribbean. Grim (S) (70950645).
- 8.00 A Touch of Frost. A beautiful woman found dead in a car park leads David Jason's 'dour' into the heart of a religious community (S) (8041).
- 10.00 Lights, Camera, Action. A Century of the Cinema. Special effects. And we don't mean Michael Aspel's year-round tan, but how they turn day into night, make it rain on sunny days and all that stuff (S) (4848).
- 11.00 News, Weather (Followed by London Weather) (495003).
- 11.15 Spitting Image (S) (192003).
- 11.45 Compass. Travelogue. Two keen fishermen go in search of the coveted Golden Mahseer, a prized Indian game fish (R) (168206).
- 12.45 *Escapist* (Eddie Beverly 1983 US). A radio station owner attempts to emulate his hero Harry Houdini and promote his flagging station. You'd best escape to bed (10298).
- 2.25 Cue the Music. The Byrds (6639558).
- 3.25 *The Big Land* (Gordon Douglas 1957 US). Cattle owners and plain farmers join forces to bring the mired to Texas. For insomniacs and Alan Ladd fans only (785165).
- 5.00 ITV Sport Classics (R) (24691).
- 5.30 News (42900). To 6.00am.

## Channel 4

- 6.25 Trans World Sport (R) (8308916).
- 7.20 Take 5. With The Magic Roundabout, Bush Tails, Natalie, Nor the Engine and Jolly Bear (S) (3085770).
- 7.45 The Magic School Bus (S) (30848).
- 8.15 Hong Kong Phooey (4114312).
- 8.30 Stunt Daws (9354664).
- 8.55 Biker Mice from Mars (R) (9373799).
- 9.20 The Secret World of Alex Mack (S) (4958645).
- 9.50 Earthworm Jim (S) (1420848).
- 10.15 Saved by the Bell. The New Class (1243577).
- 10.40 Wise Up. Kids make their own reports, including a 12-year-old dyslexic who briefs an ad agency to help him promote better understanding for sufferers (S) (4773003).
- 11.15 Rawhide (708585).
- 12.15 Mission Impossible (355645).
- 1.15 Football Italia. Parma vs Internazionale (63093409).
- 3.30 Short and Suite (2605867).
- 3.40 *The Out of Towners* (Arthur Hiller 1970 US). New York does its very worst to visiting Ohio businessman Neil Simon and his wife Sandy Dennis. Strife, blizzards, uncooperative locals and, of course, a mugging. Neil Simon wrote the original screenplay, and it all probably seemed so much fresher in 1970 (222393).
- 5.30 Hollyoaks. Last Monday's episode (R) (S) (428).
- 6.00 The Persuaders! Denny buys a country cottage (38190).
- 7.00 Time Team. Tony Robinson goes underwater - to the spot where, 20 years ago, a teenager scuba diving off a beach in Devon found a 400-year-old bronze cannon on the seabed (3119).
- 8.00 Wired World. Peter Curran presents this somewhat conventional global media view (how about a media series looking at the fast approaching future)? This week has items on underground Nigerian journalist Babafemi O. Jundu, life with the Newbury bypass protesters and India's first gay TV movie (S) (5747).
- 8.30 *India* (Andrew V McLaglen 1970 US). Cattle-rancher John Wayne isn't going to take the injustices of land-grabber Forrest Tucker anymore (7429483).
- 10.35 Super Bowl XXX: Pittsburgh Steelers vs Dallas Cowboys. American football. If you can make head or tail of this sport, and don't merely think it looks like Rugby League played by Village People extras with no knowledge of offside laws, then no doubt you'll be hooked enough to catch the annual extravaganza, live and exclusive from the Sun Devil Stadium, Gary Imbach is, naturally, your guide. See *The Big Match*, p28 (28038041).
- To 3.30am.

## ITV/Regions

- REGIA. As London except 12.30pm James Bond (S) (82157). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 9.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 10.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 11.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 12.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 1.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 2.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 3.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 4.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 5.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 6.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.00 Countryfile (S) (73490). 7.30 Countryfile (S) (73490). 8.00 Countryfile (S) (73490



# at Rocco's gate

the bid, and were asked to prepare a holding statement if an offer materialised. Sir Rocco, for his part, was in Yorkshire, preparing to shoot grouse.

## 2. Into Battle

Sir Rocco Forte had been chief executive of Forte for 15 years. But he had only really taken full control in 1993, when his father finally stepped aside. Since then, the company had at last begun to make progress. Unwanted assets were sold off. A new chain of hotels, Meridien, was bought and the tired restaurants received attention for the first time in years. The new management team – which included, crucially, Keith Hamill as finance director – was given the benefit of the doubt in the City. The message, that Forte was a company at last on the mend, was getting through.

"We had no idea the bid was coming," says a key adviser on Forte's defence team. "We certainly didn't think someone who knew absolutely nothing about the business would mount an attack."

From the start, then, the battle was all about who could manage the Forte assets best: cost-cutting Robinson, the man who famously worked only four and a half days a week, or Sir Rocco, the patrician workaholic who had long ago abandoned his playboy ways. That the two men did not like each other became clearer by the day. Robinson made fun of Sir Rocco's shooting holiday, while Sir Rocco said famously that "all [Robinson] knows about marketing is his big mouth".

Sir Rocco was appalled that the company his family had built, and that he, at last, was running, could be taken away from him. He was convinced the City would back him if he could just explain his vigorous plans for the future. He returned to London on the day of the bid to a frenzy of calls from shareholders, analysts and reporters.

That day and the next, a defence team was hastily formed, bringing together Forte's standing advisers, SBC Warburg's John Howarth, Morgan Stanley's Michael Tory and UBS's Oliver Pawle. An old school friend of Sir Rocco, Roberto Mendoza, was critical to the preparation of Forte's defence. Formerly one of the world's top fund managers, Mendoza is vice-chairman of US banking giant JP Morgan.

"That first day was the low point of the whole bid," says a participant. "Nothing thereafter could match the shock, surprise and anger."

A shaken Sir Rocco also called in the help of establishment friends, who provided some welcome support in the darkest days of the battle. No more useful ally emerged than Max Hastings, the new editor of the *Evening Standard*, whose newspaper championed Forte all the while. Hastings even set up a meeting between Sir Rocco and Sir Christopher Blundell, the chairman of LWT at the time of Granada's hostile bid. Sir Rocco was told he could get pointers on Robinson's weaknesses. But the hard work occurred at

Forte's head office in High Holborn, where Keith Hamill's finance team put in 17 hours a day for 10 days, preparing Forte's critical defence document.

From the start, the team considered radical options, including a dismemberment of the company. Sir Rocco would later insist that the demerger plan, whereby the restaurants would be hived off from the hotels, had been in the works for months.

Granada's bid strategy had been simplicity itself: an opening shot of £3.3bn, a merciless attack on Forte's indifferent profit performance and a promise to turn around the key operations.

But Forte's response was, Robinson concedes, "sparkling". Asset disposals were brought forward, with Lillywhite's and Griersons sold within days of the launch of the bid. On 7 December, Forte released a robust defence document promising sharply higher profits.

A phony war was launched, as the two sides traded insults, rubbished each other's strategy and busily began talking to key institutional shareholders. From the beginning, Granada had decided to leave the field during the middle weeks of the bid to Forte. "We knew that this thing would be decided by 35 institutions," Allen says. "We went to them at the beginning of the bid, and then left them a period to reflect."

Forte took another tack, peppering the media with press

releases. Indeed, rival PR firms believe the Forte strategy was too focused on the media, rather than on institutions.

But in secret, Forte was working up its trump card, a move that would change the momentum of the bid and give Robinson his first real fright.

## 3. The final clash

On Christmas Eve, with Robinson tucked up safe at his ancestral home in Donegal, Ireland, a Sunday newspaper trumpeted the news: brewing giant Whitbread was buying Forte's restaurants business for £1.05bn. The very assets Robinson most coveted were to be sold off in a desperate attempt to foil the bid. By the following week, Forte added the kicker: £800m would be awarded to loyal shareholders through a massive share buy-back scheme.

"I certainly had a moment of doubt," Robinson says. There were even whispers that the bid could be dropped altogether. But by the end of the week, he had changed his mind. "We could see that the share buy-back wasn't going to work, and that shareholders did not believe it."

On the weekend of 6 January, the Granada team began a marathon session at company headquarters. It was time to decide by how much to increase the bid. "We always knew the initial bid was an opening shot," an insider says.

Soundings in the City made

it clear that Granada could not raise more money, and the option of a special dividend looked attractive. Ironically, it was the level of financial detail provided in the Forte document that convinced Robinson he didn't need fresh funds: Forte shareholders who sold their stakes to Granada would get the special dividend out of Forte's own reserves. In other words, the prey, not the predator, would pay.

At the same time, Lazard were deep in conversations with the Council of Forte to buy the special 50 per cent stake. The Council first demanded £250m, while Granada suggested £10m. On Monday, 8 January, a day before Granada's final offer for Forte was due, the Council and Lazard settled on £50m.

Forte's advisers concede that the revised offer, worth £3.8bn, allowed Granada to regain the momentum. It provided an opportunity, too, for Robinson to drop any pretence about running the upmarket hotels, which he had never much cared for anyway. The revised offer was a blunt leveraged buyout, using Forte's own reserves and the promised sale of £2bn in assets to pay for the deal.

"It was so distressing," a Forte team member says. "Everyone forgave him the U-turn, and that was when we realised everyone wanted him to win."

For two weeks thereafter, the bid went Granada's way. The share price, mysteriously, continued to rise, and eight of the top 10 analysts recommended that shareholders accept the bid. Robinson approved a dawn raid, allowing Granada to pick up 9.9 per cent in the market.

The coup de grace was delivered by Carol Galley of MAM, which held 14 per cent of Forte. Famously and controversially dubbed the "Ice Maiden" by the Forte-supporting *Evening Standard* ("Iron Maiden" was rejected on the grounds of poor taste), she went personally to Sir Rocco's office on Tuesday to announce she was backing Robinson, just as she had in the LWT bid two years before.

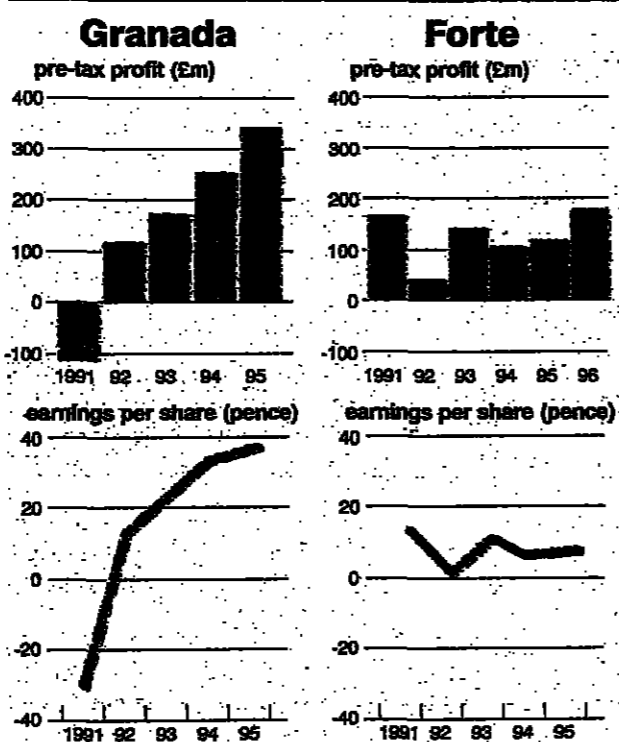
All told, three-quarters of Forte's shareholders backed Robinson. There was, says a close colleague, "a great deal of sadness for Rocco, but he was brilliant on the day."

For Robinson, the result was anti-climatic. "I didn't feel elation, really," he says. "It only now is beginning to sink in."

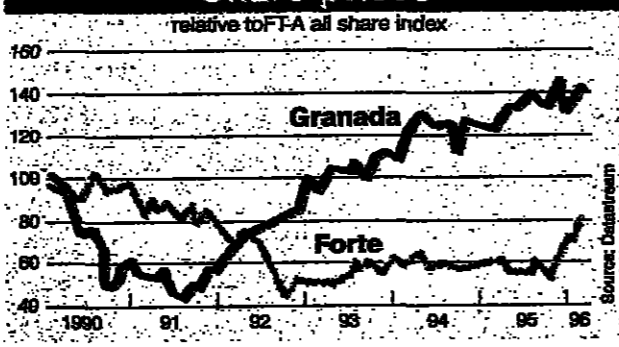
There will be plenty of news out of Granada and Forte in the months to come. The upmarket hotels will be sold – perhaps even back to Sir Rocco, who is attempting to raise financing. "I'll be back," he promised on the day he lost the empire.

Granada's ownership of Forte is bound to alter radically the leisure landscape of Britain. Roadside restaurants will get a new look. Many of them will be transformed into fast-food outlets, boasting Burger King or Pizza Hut. Thanks to centralised purchasing and cost controls, hotels will look the same in the North as in the South – the same services, the same food. Granada's defining strategy is a simple one: uniformity drives profit.

## Granada hurdles flat Forte



## Share prices



All Robinson knows about marketing is his big mouth

travelwise 0171 224 3003



someone else will

Freefone 0800 800 800

As the saying goes, "You can't please all of the people, all of the time". But given that it costs five times as much to gain a new customer as it does to keep an existing one, it pays to hang onto them. A Freefone Customer Careline can help. It's an easy way for people to get in touch with you. Whether it's to ask for advice, make suggestions on improving your service or even let off steam. A Careline also shows you value customer's opinions, that your company is prepared to listen. In fact, a recent survey found that 82% of customers are likely to re-order with you again if their complaint is successfully dealt with. For more information on your own Customer Careline, talk to us on 0800 800 800.

[Work *smarter*,  
not just *harder*]

BT



## What follows the triumph of Trimble?

The peace process rests on the Unionist leader's plans, says David McKittrick

Ulster Unionist hearts swelled with pride this week when John Major rose in the Commons to endorse David Trimble's suggestion that an election should become the centrepiece of the Irish peace process.

The sweetness of the moment was increased by Mr Trimble's quietly statesmanlike response to the Prime Minister. Most of all, it was heightened by the clear discomfiture of SDLP leader John Hume, who angrily accused Mr Major of seeking to buy votes.

Unionists have become glumly accustomed to being pilloried as obstacles to peace and progress. The sight of Mr Hume,

He has yet to win the trust of those with whom he will deal. A Catholic priest spoke of him having 'ogre status' among nationalists

incensed and isolated in the House, was for them a rare and welcome reversal of roles. It is much more common to see Mr Trimble in a temper than Mr Hume. In that moment, the veteran nationalist leader appeared to have been bested by Mr Trimble's new Unionism.

It may be that the triumph was beginner's luck for Mr Trimble, who has led his party only since September. Or it may be that his proposal for an elected body simply suited the Government's objective of maintaining a slow pace in the peace process. Or it may be a new era of more constructive Unionism, though few non-Unionists are yet convinced. Last September, Mr Trimble was the surprise choice of his party to succeed the septuagenarian James Molyneux; most thought the job would go to the man who is now his deputy - John Taylor. Instead, the party opted for Mr Trimble, the youngest and most militant of the five candidates on offer.

What swung the election for him was his reputation as an uncompromising hardliner as epitomised by his performance several months earlier at what is known as "the siege of Drumcree". This was the incident in which Mr Trimble, an Orangeman, played a leading role in resisting a police ban on an

Orange plan to march through a Catholic district in Portadown, Co Armagh.

The 48-hour stand-off was attended by some disorder, and only yesterday, 15 people appeared in court on charges arising from it. But it has entered Orange folklore as a famous victory for loyalist determination not to back down in a confrontation, and it helped get Mr Trimble his job. The party also liked his relative youth, his articulacy and his accomplished television performances.

He had been MP for Upper Bann, one of Northern Ireland's most bitter sectarian cockpits, for only five years before his elevation, although he has a political track record stretching back to the early Seventies. Almost all of that time was spent on the far right of Unionism, as a member of a number of politically extreme organisations and, since 1978, of the main Ulster Unionist party.

Throughout those years, he was a law lecturer at Queen's University, Belfast. A series of Catholic employees have won religious discrimination cases against the university, but Mr Trimble has made no secret of his belief that the real story is one of discrimination against Protestants. At Queen's, he met his second wife, who was one of his students. Together, they have four children; she works in his constituency office in the mornings, describing herself as "the domestic back-up." They listen to Verdi and Strauss, and he is fond of Wagner.

On his election, Mr Trimble hit the ground running, arranging a comprehensive series of meetings with most parts of the political spectrum - except, of course, Sinn Féin - in Belfast, London, Dublin and Washington. This was a real departure for a Unionist leader, for his predecessor was a model of reserve and reticence, instinctively shying away from such encounters.

The Trimble style, however, has not been to use such meetings to build bridges, or win friends and influence people. Instead, he goes for directness rather than diplomacy, putting his points in reportedly forceful manner. Assuming the plans for an elected body go ahead, a key question will be whether he would attempt to move away from the traditional Unionist approach of treating such institutions as gladiatorial arenas.

The main pointers against his doing so lie in his hardline record and in the huge amount of mistrust that exists in Northern Ireland politics and Anglo-Irish relations. One feature of Mr Trimble's politics is that he exudes distrust of his political opponents.

He has regularly accused nationalists of acting in bad faith. He has often expressed mistrust in British governments, too. In launching his leadership campaign, for example, he declared: "I would never go into Downing Street alone. You've got to have someone else with you to take notes, observe and listen carefully; one must be careful not to be seduced."

Conversely, he has yet to win the trust of those with whom he will deal. No significant northern nationalist figure has given signs of being persuaded that Mr Trimble is serious about wanting to reach an agreement with their tradition. A Catholic priest spoke of him having "ogre status" among nationalists.

Nor is there any sign that government ministers are opting for an election on the basis of any belief that Trimble looks ready to make



His future is Orange: David Trimble is not known for compromise Crispin Rodwell

a new historic accommodation, for they have often privately complained of his aversion to compromise. It was only a few months ago that a minister spoke of seeing the Unionist leader described as a moderate: "I was having my breakfast when I read that. Nearly poked up my Frosties."

Mr Trimble is the man of the moment, but what has not yet emerged is his view of the strategic direction Unionism should be taking. It is not clear whether he believes in stalling, in the event that the ceasefires eventually break down, or whether he really envisages, after the election, sitting down for the first time with Sinn Féin. A great deal, perhaps even peace itself, will depend on the course he chooses.

Mr Trimble is the man of the moment, but what has not yet emerged is his view of the strategic direction Unionism should be taking. It is not clear whether he believes in stalling, in the event that the ceasefires eventually break down, or whether he really envisages, after the election, sitting down for the first time with Sinn Féin. A great deal, perhaps even peace itself, will depend on the course he chooses.

Mr Trimble is the man of the moment, but what has not yet emerged is his view of the strategic direction Unionism should be taking. It is not clear whether he believes in stalling, in the event that the ceasefires eventually break down, or whether he really envisages, after the election, sitting down for the first time with Sinn Féin. A great deal, perhaps even peace itself, will depend on the course he chooses.

## A matter of reputation and honour

Tory attempts to rubbish the Scott inquiry may backfire, says Andrew Marr

The Conservative establishment is getting its retaliation in first. With the so-called "arms-to-Iraq" report due next month, its author Sir Richard Scott has been presented to readers of the *Spectator* and *Daily Express* as a naive obsessive, a cranky radical, and a fantasist whose findings, should they happen to criticise ministers, will be ignored by fair-minded people.

Rarely has a senior judge been subjected to such contemptuous personal attack by public figures as in the articles by Lord Howe and Sir Bernard Ingham. But then, rarely has any judge probed so painfully into the dark recesses of agonisingly difficult policy-making in Whitehall. In the *Spectator*, Lord Howe derides the judge's "disposition to challenge convention, defy precedent" and his "tenacious enthusiasm for his own views". Sir Bernard says that the judge is not only wet but is "waterlogged".

Both critics contend that Scott has been unjust to ministers by not allowing them vocal legal representation, against precedent. This implies that assorted ministers are retarded imbeciles, unable to speak for themselves. Was the Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell - like Lord Howe, a QC - disadvantaged by his lack of legal representation? Poor dears. More generally, both attacks smoke with outrage at the arrogance of a mere judge prying into decisions of ministers and civil servants; that Scott was appointed by the Prime Minister to do it is not, it seems, of much relevance.

It is impossible to take Sir Bernard's assault wholly seriously. Ingham, defending due process and complaining that a rather mild-mannered judge has been "astonishingly adversarial" is like the Princess of Wales lecturing the nation on "Least said, soonest mended."

Lord Howe is in a different category. His attack is detailed, dogged and long-standing. He couldn't contest anger he didn't feel if his life depended upon it. He is unlikely to have been put up to anything. But it is possible to be an honest critic of Scott and also a handy weapon in what is becoming a political battle, not one about judicial process. If there is any covert politics in Scott it's there, only more so, in Howe, Ingham and so on.

As soon as the report is published, the counter-attack will move from the pages of conservative newspapers to Westminster. Howe and Ingham are laying down the arguments to be picked up then by selected MPs, who will form a protected phalanx around any vulnerable-looking minister. By the time John Major is called upon to respond, Scott himself and his inquiry generally will have already been subjected to heavy rubbing. Downing Street has been ringing around in an attempt to co-ordinate the response. For an example of the kind of operation we should expect, look no further than the co-ordinated response to Major's performance in the summer leadership contest, which killed speculation about whether his vote was a convincing one within five minutes of it being announced.

This time the objectives are two-fold. First, to prevent any ministerial resignation that would badly damage the Government just when the Conservatives are beginning to hope that their fortunes are on the turn. Second is the broader attempt to refute any suggestion that this administration is ruthless, high-handed or immoral. It is a fight about reputation, even honour.

If the judge really goes for Sir Nicholas Lyell and others we will see a competition between Conservative politicians and the judge for the public's verdict. The press will split on broadly left-right lines. So, with a few maverick exceptions, will the Commons. My guess is that the ministers will probably survive for much the same reason as Harriet Harman survived this week: the leader's backing will be absolute, on the "we all hang together or we all hang separately" principle.

But the wider political verdict will probably go the other way: it is easier for a judge to dishonour politicians than for politicians to dishonour a judge. And Conservatives need to be very careful about the tone of the operation on which they have embarked. If you are trying to persuade voters that you are not a ruthless or arrogant administration, then engaging in a ruthless or intemperate denigration of a judge you appointed doesn't seem a good way to go about it.

## Jo Brand's week

Nice to see that Tiggy Legge-Bourke (unfairly berated maiden) has joined forces with Peter Carter-Ruck (lofty lawyer). A pair of more silly names I have not heard for a very long time. This spat between the members of the upper echelons of society is desperately dull, especially as we don't know for sure, despite tabloid speculation, what Diana said to Tiggy at the staff Christmas party.

I have said some terrible things to people at parties for the simple reason that I was tanked up. Just getting Tiggy's name correct when you've had a couple of Babybams is in itself a bit of a triumph, I would imagine. Now the hangovers have well and truly cleared up, perhaps they should all grow up.

**Marrying off your daughter**, aged 13, to a Turkish waiter seems to me a very medieval thing to do, not to mention the fact that Enid Blyton must be revolving at the speed of light in a mausoleum somewhere. Everyone is throwing their hands up in despair and asking how the parents could possibly have given their blessing. Because they are stupid, one would imagine. I often think that because anyone with the correct equipment can have a baby, there are always going to be parents who are hopeless at parenting, at which point we call upon social workers to step into the human relations equivalent of *Catch 22*. If they don't do

something, they're criticised, and if they do, nobody gives them any credit anyway - all the job satisfaction of a punch-bag, I'd say. The father of the bride touted his story round the papers, like they do, and sold it to the highest bidder. Unlikely to be the *Financial Times*, wasn't it? It was rumoured he got paid 20 grand. Is that the going rate for a dowry? Must tell my dad. Meanwhile, in Turkey, our waiter has been accused of rape and the Cook bride has been made a ward of court back here. Surely they must all be in some way related to the Mitchell family in *EastEnders*. Truth is stranger than fiction - and a lot sadder.

My brother is currently languishing at home in Germany having had his arm broken in two places after an accident during a friendly game of football. It's funny how "friendly" games always seem to produce more injuries. This particular game involved my brother's firm and a team of Croatians from a sports club. My poor brother took the full force of a shot at goal on his arm as he tried to save it. "They all take the game so seriously," he told me. Perhaps we could have guessed that.

Poor old Madonna is getting it in the neck from the Argentinians at the moment because she has taken on the role of Eva Perón in the film

of *Evita*. The Catholic bishop of Buenos Aires has called her "Satan in drag." (He sounds like a laugh. Perhaps they should get him on *Have I Got News For You*). Maybe they should offer Margaret Thatcher the part. That would really be interesting.



Madonna: on the Eva destruction

The most popular television show in Moscow at the moment is a live action crime programme hosted by someone blonde, pretty and aged 20, so we can reassure ourselves that they are cottoning on fast to Western democratic values. Aforementioned presenter rushes attractively all over Moscow

covering the most gruesome murders, sparing the viewers nothing as a cavalcade of purple bloated bodies are served up for their delectation. Just in case people are having their dinners, light relief is supplied by a parade of crime suspects handcuffed to policemen. And very difficult it is to tell which is which. This type of programme seems to be closing in on us from all sides. We do have *Crimestwatch UK*, but that all tends to be in the best possible taste and leaves out the blood and guts. The only educational aspect of these sort of in-your-face crime shows is that they make you realise how much more of an attractive prospect it is dying on Hollywood celluloid than it is in real life. Apart from that, they are pointless.

On the whole, I get quite nice letters from viewers when the television series is on. This may well be because my agent tends to chuck out all the horrible ones threatening unmentionable things and berating me. However, the occasional poison missive slips through, particularly if it has gone to the BBC by mistake.

One such charming and eloquent sonnet plopped onto my mat the other day and I recognised the writing immediately, as I have received several items from this person in the past. The content isn't imaginative particularly and combines the nouns "slut" and "slag" with a Roger's *Thesaurus*-worth of adjectives for fat. As per usual, the name and address were completely unintelligible, not even allowing me the satisfaction of sending the person in question a thank-you letter. What a shame. I bet a poison pen pal could be loads of fun.

Sometimes it's quite hard to get good reception on Teletext, so consequently I am presented with what looks like a half-finished crossword in which I have to fill in the missing letters by guesswork. Having missed the news the other day, I turned it on to see the headline, Blair sacks Harriet Harman. Well done, old son. I thought you've sacked her. A quick twiddle of the aerial revealed it was a "b", not the "s" I surmised. I don't suppose she's going to resign either.



Harriet: Likely to keep her job

It seems Belgium has privatised deportation. A recent investigation showed the Belgian government employs a firm called Budd, (wouldn't a "y" on the end have been great?) to do it. The journalist who did the story said: "The government uses methods advocated some years ago by the extreme right." Without the eclectic mix that different ethnic groups bring to a country, no wonder Belgium is such a tedious place. I always liked that joke that goes: Why did the Belgian chicken cross the road? Because there's nowt else to do in Belgium, of course.

## Pollen, pet hairs, dust and dust mites... virtually nothing escapes the 8 1/2 lb ORECK XL

The vacuum chosen by 50,000 hotels and over 1 million homes. Why? Because it's powerful, robust and incredibly lightweight!

**Why is the Oreck so efficient?** Because pile-lifting roller brushes spinning at 6,500 rpm deliver up to 70 million strokes a minute. The Oreck tackles the most stubborn ingrained dirt.

**Great for allergy sufferers.** The filtration system traps 99.4% of all microscopic irritants as small as 0.1 micron.

**Oreck's 'Helping Hand'™** The handle, orthopaedically designed to eliminate the gripping action for those with painful joints.

**Worth £79...the hand-held super compact vac.** It weighs only 4lbs, yet has immense power. It's a companion to the



upright to clean all those awkward places... upholstered furniture, curtains, stairs and cars.

● Interest FREE easy payment terms

● Comprehensive UK after-sales service

● 2-year guarantee

**CALL US FREE ON 0800 67 68 69**

QUOTING CODE NO. 0267 OR SEND THIS COUPON

Please send me my FREE information pack - without obligation

Name (please print clearly) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this coupon to Oreck Corporation, FREEPOST (EX151), Exeter, EX1 1AZ. We'll pay the postage - you do not need a stamp.

Send no money now. No obligation. No sales person will visit.

The supplier of this product is: Sales & Serv. Ltd, Convey Group Plc, Exeter, Devon EX4 5JZ as agent for Oreck Corporation

# Sainsbury's profits warning shocks City

NIGEL COPE

Sainsbury's shocked the City yesterday when it issued its first profits warning since it floated on the stock market in 1975. The company said profits in the current year would be "below earlier expectations" due to increased spending on customer service measures, keener pricing in its supermarkets and a poor performance from Texas Homecare, which is struggling in the cut-throat DIY market.

The announcement forced analysts to downgrade their full-year profit forecasts from as high as £810m to between £750m and £760m. This is significantly lower than last year's £809m and breaks the company's unbroken run as a public company, during which it has reported higher trading profits each year.

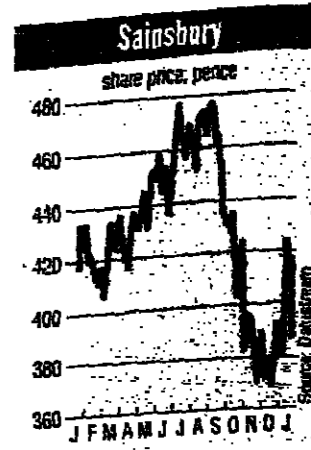
The profits warning wrong-footed City analysts, who had felt the group was turning the corner after a difficult 1995 during which it lost ground to Tesco and Asda. Tony MacNeary of NatWest Securities said: "This shows there is still a lot more to do in the business. New management has still to get to grips with the business and there could be more costs to come."

Sainsbury's shares fell 21.5p to 389p on the news. The slump wiped out gains earlier this month when the City had responded warmly to a boardroom shake-up which saw David Sainsbury split the roles of chairman and chief executive. The warning overshadowed a relatively upbeat statement on sales increases, which showed that the January Savers price promotion had provided a significant boost to sales.

Mr Sainsbury said the group was keen to regain its market shares leadership over Tesco but admitted it might take time. "That will remain our objective but I don't think [it will happen] this year," he said. Supermarket sales in the 16 weeks to 13 January were up by 3 per cent on last year, excluding new store sales. Trading over the Christmas period was healthy at 4.5 per cent up on the previous year. In the peak pre-Christmas week, sales broke the company's previous record by a significant margin.

The figures are lower than the 8 per cent increase reported by Tesco last month, though this was achieved on a lower margin due to the launch of its loyalty card. Sainsbury's has added 2,500 more supermarket staff at a cost of around £10m. These will be employed on checkouts, service counters and as packers. David Sainsbury said the management restructuring was now complete and dismissed suggestions that the group needed an operations director. "We appointed a new retail director, David Clapham, only four or five months ago. We

have a good, strong team." However, the Texas Homecare chain, which Sainsbury's bought from Ladbroke a year ago, has continued to struggle. Sales in the 16 weeks to mid January fell by 7.5 per cent, due to store closures. Kitchen sales were slow. Sainsbury's had been saying that the chain would break even over the full year but some analysts are now forecasting a loss of up to £10m. It is expected that the stores' performance will improve when they are re-branded under the Homebase name.



## Persimmon rights to fund Ideal bid

TOM STEVENSON  
City Editor

The acrimonious battle for control of Trafalgar House subsidiary Ideal Homes will come to a head early next week when Persimmon - which controversially secured an exclusive negotiation period for the deal - makes a formal offer of about £100m and launches a rights issue to part-fund the acquisition. Persimmon's talks with Trafalgar sparked a row two weeks ago with rival house-builder Beazer Homes, which claims to have been shut out of discussions to buy Ideal.

Beazer, which is twice the size of Persimmon, insists that it is better placed to move quickly to complete the acquisition because its offer would be financed principally from its own cash resources and bank borrowings. The Persimmon proposals are thought to include a one-for-two rights issue to raise just over £100m, for which underwriting will be sought on Monday.

Once that is arranged the terms of the bid might be announced as early as next Tuesday. Trafalgar needs to tie up the deal as soon as possible to reduce debts of more than £200m. Last month it stunned the City with annual losses of £321m, nearly twice the level predicted by some analysts. The conglomerate's shares collapsed last year, although at 32p, they are well above their low of 21p.

The planned disposal of Ideal, one of the group's most profitable divisions, follows the sale at the end of last year of some of Trafalgar's most high profile trophy assets, including the Ritz hotel, acquired by the secretive Barclay brothers for £75m. Ideal made doubled operating profits last year of £19m. It has 100 development sites which at the end of the year to September included 6,600 plots.

The struggle for control of Ideal confirms a resurgence of interest in the housebuilding sector, where share prices have risen sharply in recent weeks in anticipation of higher levels of activity this year. Berkeley Homes, one of the sector's most successful companies launched a rights issue earlier this week to buy extra building land while Alfred McAlpine pulled out of general construction work to focus in part on its own housebuilding effort.



Duncan Davidson: heading for his first acquisition

## Fokker gains brief reprieve

PETER RODGERS  
Business Editor

Fokker, the stricken Dutch aircraft maker, was yesterday given a five- to six-week reprieve by its government while a search continues for a buyer. Hans Wijers, Dutch economic affairs minister, said the government was making an interim loan of £25m guilders (£100m) and would also bring forward the purchase of four Fokker jets worth 110m guilders.

Mr Wijers played down the chances of a rescue from any quarter. He said: "There is no reason whatsoever for great optimism. The company faces very great problems." Partners still had to be found for Fokker in a very short period in an industry with "large financial risks, continuing overcapacity and ruinous prices. For the time being it is just words and paper."

The cash holds out hope to Shorts Brothers, the Belfast company where about 800 staff depend on supplying wings for Fokker's planes. On Tuesday, Fokker sought court protection from creditors for its three aircraft subsidiaries, ending a long struggle to keep the 76-year-old company afloat.

## Stakis wants to buy mid-market Forte hotels

JOHN EISENHAMMER  
Financial Editor

"We're not interested in the Trophy hotels or the Meridian chain, but we would be keen on buying some of the three- and four-star hotels," a Stakis spokesman said. "Whatever Robinson might put up in London, any or all of them would be within our grasp."

The defeated Sir Rocco Forte has announced his intention to get City backing to repurchase the upmarket hotels. "I think Rocco is after the more luxury and international hotels, and we are after the more mid-market hotels, if any are for sale," Mr Michels said.

A leading analyst said: "Stakis is probably one of the best run businesses in the UK sector. They have the highest rate of return. A deal could make a lot of sense." Stakis has been steadily expanding its hotel business for the past two years, which helped the group to a 28 per cent profit increase to £26m in 1995, despite a decline at its casinos.

The group currently has 43 hotels with a total of just over 5,000 rooms. It issued an upbeat trading statement yesterday, saying that in the 13 weeks to the end of December, room occupancy rose to 72 per cent and the casino business showed modest gains. Stakis shares, which have performed strongly over the past year, closed down 2 at 87p.

Mr Robinson and Granada's chief operating officer, Charles Allen, spent much of yesterday at Forte's HQ seeking to reassure staff. At their first meeting with staff below department head level, they said that salaries would be paid and there would be no loss of organisational changes. The broking houses BZW and ABN Amro Hoare Govett, both advisers to Granada



Gerry Robinson: Expecting to hear from Stakis soon

## Lights go out on Liffe's late session

JOHN EISENHAMMER  
Financial Editor

Liffe, London's go-go derivatives exchange, has torn a large leaf out of the Stock Exchange's collective works of cock-ups, admitting the hasty shut-down of its new electronic options trading system just 15 minutes after its launch.

There were shades of Taurus minor yesterday, as pained Liffe officials, more used to rebutting malicious market rumours of coke in the restrooms, sought to explain why the plug had hastily to be pulled on Thursday on their "very leading edge system".

Traders across the City had been looking forward to the chance to turn a few quid in this first extension into electronic after-hours options trading. Suddenly they found themselves tapping in the dark, after having grappled confusingly with reference prices that had taken on minds of their own.

"The system was overloaded and not performing acceptably," said a Liffe spokeswoman, who sounded in danger of crashing herself. "We need to do some more development. Options trading can be very complex." The APT Plus system was developed in-house at a cost of £2m to enable trading in Bund

## Abbot wins battle for oil operator OIS

MARY FAGAN  
Industrial Correspondent

Aberdeen-based Abbot Group has won the battle for control of OIS International, the oil services company that was floated at the end of 1992. Abbot saw off a counter-attack launched on Thursday morning by OGC International, also based in Aberdeen, which had won the agreement of the OIS board.

Abbot, best known for its KCA drilling subsidiary, originally offered around £8m for OIS just before Christmas after exploratory talks broke down. OIS, whose profits slumped to £144,000 in the year to December 1994 from £2.2m the previous year, dismissed the offer as opportunistic.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change %	1995/96 High	1995/96 Low
FTSE 100	3734.70	+0.50	+0.0	3758.20	2954.20
FTSE 250	4085.60	-1.10	-0.0	4086.90	3300.90
FTSE 350	1854.60	+0.10	+0.0	1863.90	1492.40
FT Small Cap	2005.58	+1.82	+0.1	2005.58	1678.61
FT All Share	1828.89	+0.22	+0.0	1837.17	1469.23
New York	5247.16	+30.35	+0.6	5242.84	3632.08
Tokyo	20863.84	+249.15	+1.2	20669.03	14485.41
Hong Kong	11111.87	+8.79	+0.1	11111.87	6967.93
Frankfurt	2432.93	-10.79	-0.4	2443.72	1910.96

INTEREST RATES					
Index	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	2 Year
UK	6.25	6.06	7.44	8.61	7.80
US	5.24	5.19	5.88	7.82	6.11
Japan	0.38	0.59	2.95	4.67	-
Germany	3.56	3.28	5.89	7.41	6.70

CURRENCIES					
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
\$ (London)	1.5030	-0.17c	1.592	£ (London)	0.6653
¥ (London)	1.5035	-0.40c	1.6895	¥ (London)	0.6861
DM (London)	2.2412	+0.51p	2.4089	DM (London)	1.4912
₹ (London)	160.327	-0.996	157.782	₹ (London)	106.675

OTHER INDICATORS					
Index	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Index	Yesterday
Oil Brent	16.35	-0.52	16.43	API	150.7 +3.2pc
Gold	405.60	+2.1	378.35	GDP	106.9 1.8pc
Gold E	269.86	+3.48	238.017	Base Rates	- 6.25pc

**'Independent' Money on Saturday**  
In the 'Weekend' section today:  
• National pensions: Compulsory contributions? 23  
• Fear of finance: Savings rates crumble 23  
• Nursing home insurance: Partnership plan emerges 24  
• Investment management: Europe states its case 25

# P&O is undervalued but not a tempting target



There is a time for making the assets sweat, but also in business, a time when managements must look to the future and invest in it; that at least is what an increasingly worried P & O management has been telling the City.

After Forti, P&O? The parallels are obvious. Even after their recent run, P&O shares, like those of Forti before the Granada bid, trade at a substantial discount to underlying assets. Nor are profits at P&O anywhere near their potential: making the assets sweat is apparently what the Carol Galles of this world expect of company directors these days.

At P&O it is simply not happening. And although P&O is plainly not quite the business dynasty that Forti was, it comes close. Lord Sterling of Plaistow has been at the helm for donkey years; some accuse him of falling asleep at the wheel.

So is P&O heading the same way as Forti, into the arms of an asset-stripping predator? Post Forti, the idea of the break-up bid is suddenly respectable once more, in the City at least. With its dozen or so unrelated divisions, P&O might seem a classic for the treatment; it is easily possible to get to a break-up value of £7 a share, so even after the recent slide - up another 13p yesterday to 542p - there is still plenty to go for.

However, there are a number of reasons why the present wave of speculation is probably only a hiccup. For a start P&O is an awfully large bite for anyone: the likely takeout would be anything up to £4bn. On top of that, the bidder inherits a mountain of debt. Furthermore, the break-up effort required would make P&O distinctly unappealing to any industrial bidder. In the Forti

case, the disposal programme faced by Granada is large but containable, in the sense that it could be achieved in just two or three sales. With P&O, there would be division after division to sell, for the sake of the one or two businesses that the bidder really wants.

This wouldn't rule out a break-up specialist such as KKR, of course, but whether the Americans would have the stomach for an assault of such size on British soil must be open to question. The stock market has always found it hard to value conglomerates, even those like P&O that claim to have some kind of common thread to unite their disparate businesses. P&O is also in some highly unfashionable, down-trodden industries.

Even the most inspired of managements would find it hard to sparkle in cross-Channel ferries, construction and house-building. As it is, P&O is probably as effective as most. Its under-performance is also in part a reflection of the fact that it invests heavily for the future - an old-fashioned concept this.

There is a time for making the assets sweat, but also in business, a time when managements must look to the future and invest in it; that at least is what an increasingly worried P&O management has been telling the City. In the past three or four months it has visited more institutional shareholders than in the previous three or four years. The message is that the dividend is safe and that the business will soon be reaping the rewards of

heavy spending and caring management. If, in the meantime, bid speculation makes investors realise quite how undervalued the company is, nobody is going to quarrel too much with that.

## PFI is just another form of never-never

The cross-party Treasury committee concluded its hearings on the Private Finance Initiative this week. It must now begin the more difficult part - deciding what to make of it all. If MPs have any sense, they will expose the PFI for what it really is - a questionable exercise in off-budget financing.

The scale of PFI expansion the Government is seeking is staggering. According to the Treasury, departments expect to have agreed £14bn worth of PFI contracts within the next three years. In its absence, total public sector capital spending would fall drastically, by almost a tenth in real terms, in the next financial year.

No one is in any doubt about the political reason for this helter-skelter rush into these uncharted waters. The Government couldn't make its sums add up for the budget, so something had to give. In time-honoured fashion, that something was public investment. Enter the *deus ex machina*, the Private Finance Initiative.

A useful advantage for the Government

in its now reckless love affair with the PFI is that it is not the only saviour. Indeed, doughty John Prescott, deputy leader of the Labour Party, takes credit for inventing the idea. Industrialists are more guarded in their support, particularly since right now the PFI is not delivering the contracts expected, but if in the end it results in more work than the public sector would have put up for grabs on its own, then they are happy too.

Sometimes this kind of consensus is a Good Thing: think of the new-found bipartisan accord on keeping inflation under control, together with sustaining the institutional changes, in particular those to the Bank of England, that have added credibility to this objective. As often as not, however, a blanket consensus hides a conspiracy of silence, in which the various parties have very different motives in backing a policy.

So it is with the PFI. Labour backs the scheme because it sees it as a way of escaping the tyranny of the public sector borrowing requirement and so boosting public investment. The Conservatives back the initiative because it allows them to cut public investment - while claiming they haven't. Industry sees the PFI as a backdoor entry to nice juicy contracts. Everyone loves the PFI then. But who eventually picks up the bill?

Answer: the taxpayer. Except that under the PFI, the bill is pushed into the future. The public sector no longer contracts to buy assets; instead it enters into agreements to

purchase services. Not a penny is paid until those services start to be provided, so under the cash-based public accounts, not a penny is shown in the projections of public expenditure until that happens.

The official rationale for the Private Finance Initiative is that this further extension of market disciplines into the public sector stands or falls on value for money. A PFI scheme must satisfy this criterion if it is to go ahead. Top departmental civil servants in their capacity as accounting officers and the National Audit Office can be relied upon to police the new practice.

Despite these protestations, which include claims of substantial savings and better quality services on early deals, serious doubts remain. Whatever the efficiencies the private sector can deliver, it will always face substantially higher borrowing costs than the Government.

A further worry is that departments are locking themselves into long-term, inflexible contracts for services which may become redundant. The public sector may find itself tied into onerous contracts for services that are no longer needed.

But the biggest concern by far is that the PFI is for the Government just another form of the never-never. MPs must insist that the capital costs of PFI contracts are included in next year's public expenditure figures. Otherwise, claims of spending control compared with previous years will increasingly lose credibility.

# Contractors warn 15,000 jobs face axe

PETER RODGERS  
Business Editor

Civil engineers predicted yesterday that 10,000 to 15,000 jobs would be lost this year because a slowdown in roadbuilding orders is causing a deepening slump in the industry.

John Hackett, the director-general of the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors, blamed the government for the downturn because of a slowing in the award of roadbuilding and maintenance contracts.

Mr Hackett said that the Highways Agency business plan had been revised downward for the 1995-96 year, and now included only one start on a major road scheme compared with eight announced at the start of the financial year. Maintenance had also been trimmed back and some smaller contracts already out to tender had been shelved.

Mr Hackett said: "In the present state of the market it is a severe blow to these companies to have incurred thousands of pounds in tendering costs, then to be told that contracts will not be awarded."

He added: "The transport minister's announcement, and these actions by the Highways Agency, are accelerating the decline in road construction and maintenance that is dragging down the whole of civil engineering."

The contractors also blamed slippages in awarding design, build, finance and operate (DBFO) contracts - part of the government's private finance initiative - as a contributory factor. But a spokesman said the slippage was only three months and was not as important to the industry's problems as the straightforward cut in the number of government contracts awarded.

The spokesman blamed these cuts on a hiatus resulting from the national transport debate inaugurated by Dr Brian Mawhinney when he was transport secretary. "The road versus rail debate should have happened years ago. Our members were left waiting." The debate played into the hands of the Treasury, opening the way for a fall in spending on roads, he said.

The contractors, who employ

130,000 people, are to meet Dr Mawhinney's successor, Sir George Young, on Monday to discuss ways of speeding up the award of contracts, including the preparation of a standard set of contracts for DBFO projects.

The prediction of a deepening slump came from the latest quarterly survey of federation members. Only one in five firms was resisting the downward trend.

Mr Hackett said the most striking feature of the results was the continuing low level of invitations to tender for future work, which pointed to a greater fall in workload later in 1996. The percentage of firms reporting a fall in invitations is the highest for 15 years, while the percentage reporting more invitations is the lowest for the same period.

Mr Hackett added "This, and a succession of recent government announcements and actions by public sector clients, have created a situation of considerable uncertainty and concern over the outlook for civil engineering later this year."



Heading for a slump: Civil engineers say that invitations to tender are at their lowest for 15 years. Only one big road scheme will start this year. Photograph: Brian Harris

There is, however, a slight pick-up in the number of firms reporting better current order books, because of higher orders from the water industry. But for every firm doing better there are two doing worse. Mr Hackett said more orders for water and

sewerage works did not make up for the decline in orders for transport infrastructure that provided the greatest part of the civil engineering workload. The industry knew there would be more work later in the year on the first DBFO contracts, but

that would not make up for the cuts in public spending.

The survey showed improvements in the circumstances of smaller contractors - with fewer than 100 workers on sites - but no change or a worsening for all the larger firms.

## IN BRIEF

### Bass family lifts Sotheby's stake

Sotheby's Holdings, the parent company of the auction house group, has confirmed that a group including members of the Bass family in America, now owns 7.7 per cent of the shares.

### Electronic nose sniffs out smaller loss

AromaScan, maker of the "electronic nose", is in detailed talks with prospective partners to exploit the company's core technology. No further details were disclosed, but the company said it was confident about full-year progress after announcing losses cut from £819,000 to £683,000 in the six months to October.

### Rebel bales out of Locker

John Carr, rebel shareholder in Thomas Locker (Holdings), baled out yesterday, selling his remaining 11.6 per cent holding. Mr Carr has been a thorn in the side of the family-dominated engineering company since he acquired a 22.6 per cent stake last May and attempted to prevent the reverse takeover of Pentre, an industrial drums maker. But his objections were rejected by other shareholders when they approved the Pentre deal earlier this month.

### Greig Middleton offshore business sold

King & Saxson, is selling the Channel Islands business of its Greig Middleton stockbrokers to Collins Stewart for an initial £1.8m. At the end of April, the net assets were valued at £1.7m. Pre-tax profits for the 12 months to April were £416,000.

### Standard Chartered plans sale of HK unit

Standard Chartered, the UK-based bank with extensive Asia operations, is in discussion with Nava, the finance arm of the Thai Military Bank, over the sale of its Hong Kong-based unit Standard Chartered Securities.

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

Edited by TOM STEVENSON

# Cancer scare shakes Medeva

Our suggestion earlier this month that an investment in Medeva, the drugs group, could prove exciting has already been borne out by events. Unfortunately the subsequent one-fifth fall in the share price, even after yesterday's 5.5p uptick to 223p, is not what we had in mind.

The sudden change in sentiment was prompted by last week's warning from the US Food and Drug Administration that Medeva's best-selling behaviour-modifying drug, Methylphenidate, could potentially cause cancer. This bolt from the blue came after tests on the 40-year-old drug, which treats so-called attention deficit disorder. The tests showed a higher than expected incidence of a rare liver cancer after laboratory rats and mice were treated at 30 times the normal dose over two years. Five male mice out of a sample of 70 developed tumours. The FDA described these findings as only a "weak signal" of the drug's potential for cancer, but has called for doctors to be notified and warnings to be printed on the packaging.

Bill Bogie, Medeva's chief executive, points out that research has shown that the sort of liver disease in question is normally apparent by the age of four in humans, while Methylphenidate is only prescribed from six and above. He also stresses the FDA's continued belief that Methylphenidate is a safe and effective drug. But the share price reaction shows just how vulnerable Medeva remains to bad news. The latest tidings come just as Medeva was rehabilitating itself in the City after a 1993 profits warning halved its mar-

ket value. Continued growth of Methylphenidate and the prospects for a range of new products ranging from a generic metered-dose inhaler for asthma to Hepagene, a vaccine for hepatitis B, spurred the shares' 39 per cent outperformance against the rest of the stock market last year.

The problem is that the balance between risk and reward is very finely poised at Medeva. Methylphenidate is crucial in the short term, representing as it does all the group's sales growth and a substantial proportion of profits. NatWest Markets calculates that a halving of the drug's expected rate of expansion to 13 per cent in 1996 would cut Medeva's earnings growth from 16 per cent to 6 per cent this year.

The deceleration means profits would rise from an estimated £79m last year to just £86m in 1996, compared with consensus estimates of around £95m, raising the prospective multiple from 11 to 13. That is still not high for a fast-expanding drugs company, but there are plenty of other problems.

Medeva's new inhaler has now lost the race to be the first on the US market to use albuterol - generic Ventolin - after having approval from the authorities last month. Competition is set to intensify with the imminent introduction by Glaxo Wellcome and Schering-Plough of generic versions of their own patented products. Elsewhere, several other new Medeva products are caught up in patent litigation.

Law suits are not uncommon in the pharmaceuticals world, but provide a degree of uncertainty at a time when Medeva is also about to change its chairman and

finance director. The shares could drift for several months while the effect of the latest news becomes apparent.

## British Borneo rights on track

When a company, with shares trading at 378p, stages a two-for-five rights issue at 310p, the arithmetic points to a notional ex-rights price of 359p. It is quite some indication of the enthusiasm in the City for the oil explorer British Borneo that in just those circumstances yesterday, its shares actually jumped to 410p.

Since 1989 British Borneo has transformed itself from what was essentially an investment trust, a portfolio of oil company shares, into a well-regarded and focused oil exploration and production company. The building of that business, however, has not been at the expense of shareholder value - growing cash flow and earnings have easily funded a good dividend and the share price has quadrupled since the beginning of 1992.

Analysts left yesterday's meeting with the company impressed by its strategy of diversifying out of existing strongholds in the North Sea and shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico and into the Gulf's deeper waters. It is an oil region of immense promise that has attracted a lot of interest.

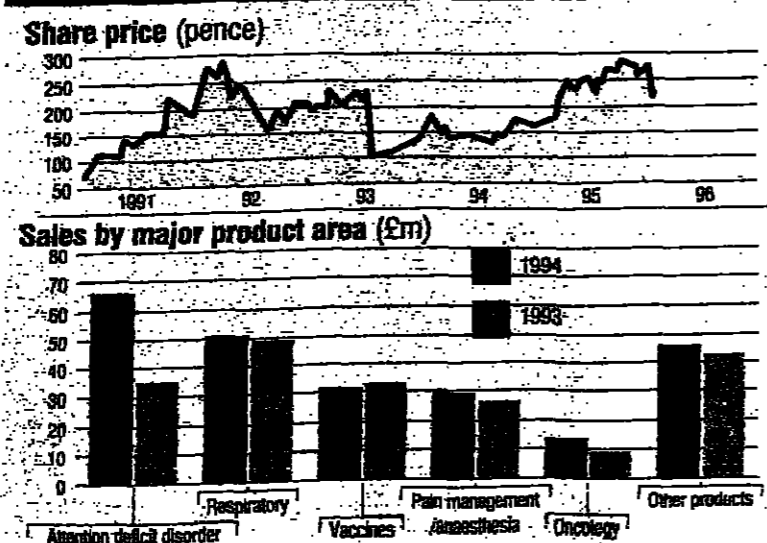
The big players, however, are really only interested in developing fields where they can retrieve more than about 75 million barrels of oil. That leaves plenty of work for smaller companies, especially if they can create cost advantages.

British Borneo believes it has a significant competitive advantage in the area, partly thanks to a recently announced alliance with an American company that has developed a low cost production platform called SeaStar. Thanks to an agreement with Shell to appraise and develop a field called Morphet, Borneo has become one of the first independent exploration companies to establish a significant presence.

The rights issue, to raise £54m, was accompanied by full-year results for the 12 months to December, showing a useful rise in pre-tax profits from £11.4m to £13.6m. Despite higher petroleum revenue tax last year, post-tax earnings increased to 23.1p (21.1p), allowing an unchanged dividend of 7.5p.

Financially strong and with good asset backing, the shares look nicely underpinned but it would be surprising if, following their recent run, they didn't pause for breath.

## Medeva: at a glance



## INTEREST FREE CREDIT ON HOLIDAYS AND FLIGHTS

# Fly now Pay later

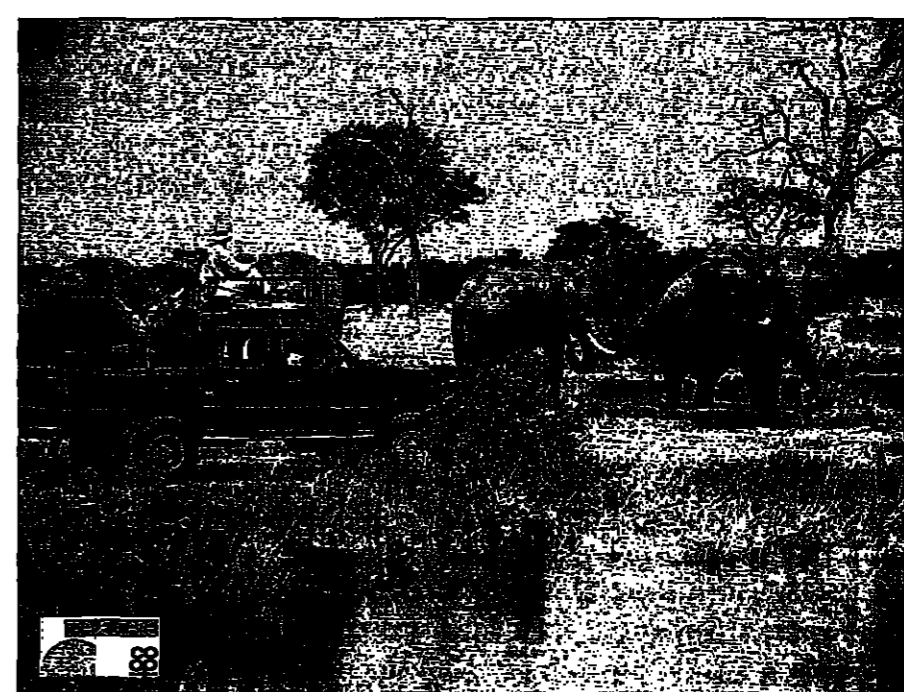
WITH THE INDEPENDENT

Take off with The Independent and the Independent on Sunday's Fly Now Pay Later offer.

We've teamed up with Co-op Travelcare, one of the top travel agency chains in the UK, so that readers of The Independent can get up to £2,500 Interest Free Credit on holidays and flights booked through our special service. So now you can take off when you feel the inclination - without paying everything up front. For example, on a holiday costing £2,500, at a typical APR of 14.9% you would save £328.

With over 300 holiday brochures and 49 airlines to choose from, there are holidays to suit everyone. Whether it's a week in Mauritius, a romantic city break in Paris, or white-water rafting down the Zambezi, you'll have the freedom to take off anytime between 1 February-31 December 1996.

**How to Qualify for the Easy Payment Plan**  
Each day in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday, until Saturday 3rd February, we will print a different numbered token. In order to



qualify for the Fly Now Pay Later Easy Payment Plan, you need to collect eight differently numbered tokens and keep them safe until you are ready to make your booking. Today we are printing Token 6.

Yesterday we gave you full details on how you can book your holiday with the Easy Payment Plan, which we will repeat on Monday. If you would like details of the Easy Payment Plan simply call The Independent/Fly Now Pay Later helpline on this number:

**0161 827 1044**  
Terms and conditions are as previously published.

**Fly Now Pay Later**  
**Token 6**  
THE INDEPENDENT

## Fly Now Pay Never!

# £25,000 of flights and holidays to be won

Today you could win a nine day holiday for two where you will not only visit South Africa, but Zimbabwe and Botswana too. Our winner and partner will arrive in Cape Town and then move on to the spectacular Victoria Falls. Your next stop will be

at the Chobe Game reserve where you can have the once in-a-lifetime thrill of seeing big game in the wild.

To enter our competition all you need to do is answer the following question and call the Fly Now Pay Never competition line on 0891 161 985.

**Question: Which two countries share the Victoria Falls?**

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times. Lines close at midnight tonight. Postal entry can be made by sending

your answer, name, address and telephone number to: The Independent/Fly Now Pay Never Day 6, PO Box 7298, London E14 9EG by no later than 30 January 1996. The winner will be picked at random after entry closes, from all correct entrants.





## sport



Hylton: European junior title

## Bullock and Hylton add to 400 metres equation

## Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Such is the wealth of 400 metres runners in Britain at the moment that it is likely to be one of the most consistently intriguing events of the season.

As the likes of Roger Black, Mark Richardson, Du'Aine Ladejo and David Grindley train on in earnest for their Olympic year, two of the country's most promising one-lap runners will provide a glimpse of the future today as they face each other in the season's opening indoor international in Birmingham.

Guy Bullock, the 1993 European junior 400m champion, and Mark Hylton, the current

holder of that title, take to the boards in the Bupa International against Russia with everything to run for.

Both have the potential to earn an Olympic place this summer, although Bullock, a 20-year-old Liverpoolian, is realistic in his assessment of how things stand. "I would like to think I would be going to the Olympics, but both Mark and I have got to knock a few people off their perches first," he said.

But, as Hylton points out, the 400m is notorious for inducing illness and injury, and the odds against all four main contenders making it to the Olympic trials in July in top shape must be long. If there are any openings, these two runners, and the likes

of Jamie Baulch, currently training with Colin Jackson in Australia, stand ready to exploit them.

Not that either is immune to the 400m runner's trials. Bullock, a powerful all-round sportsman who excelled at football and rugby as a schoolboy, had most of last season ruined by a hamstring injury and a chest infection. Hylton achieved both his ambitions for last year in winning his junior title and making the British team at the Gothenburg World Championships, but last November he contracted glandular fever and missed a month's training.

Bullock, who has lost a stone in weight recently since following what he describes as a more

"event specific" approach to his training, indicated his return to form at the Birmingham New Year Games as he broke 47 seconds in a runaway victory.

Although Bullock no longer shares a coach with Grindley—he switched back to Alan Prestcott from Chris Butler recently—he still trains regularly with the British record holder.

Hylton gave notice of his own return to fitness last week in taking the Scottish indoor title in 47.35sec, one hundredth of a second outside the championship best. The 19-year-old from Windsor has a similar training set-up to Bullock, working with a more established one-lap runner in Richardson, last year's European Cup champion.

With many of Britain's more established athletes still training abroad, this team includes seven new internationals, including Hylton's 17-year-old Windsor club-mate, Lesley Owens, who also competes at 400m.

Neil Caddy, whose victory over a strong 2000m field at the Durham cross-country event on 31 December was full of promise, also has his first international run-out.

Meanwhile Judy Oakes, who first competed for Britain before Hylton was born, will make her 73rd appearance for Great Britain—an all-time record.

The 37-year-old shot putter, whose first international appearance was on 31 January 1976, will surpass the mark

held by the current British team manager, Verona Elder.

Oakes, who came out of her second retirement to win a second Commonwealth title in 1994, became the first person to exceed an Olympic standard in 1996 when she recorded 18.11 metres on 6 January.

"It's a special milestone in my life because it shows I've supported my sport for a very long time," said Oakes, who is hoping to reach the final at what will be her third Olympics.

"I think it is going to be hard for anyone to beat the record because there are fewer international matches nowadays. Besides, it's taken me 20 years. I don't think anyone else would be crazy enough to want to do that."



Bullock: Back to best form

## Christie cruises to victory

Linford Christie won his first 100 metres race of the year with impressive ease at the Adelaide Grand Prix yesterday.

Running into a strong headwind, the Olympic champion dominated the race from the 40-metre mark and crossed the line in a hand-timed 10 seconds dead. The time is worth the equivalent of around 10.25sec timed electronically. Australia's Tim Jackson was second in 10.3.

Christie has yet to reveal if he will run in the Atlanta Olympics. He has spent the past month in Australia training, increasing speculation that the Olympics will be his swansong. "I just want to go out with a bang this year," Christie said. "I'm in better shape than last year and I'm very, very strong at the moment."

Colin Jackson won the 110m hurdles in 13.39 despite running into a headwind of 2.7mps. "I'm really happy to turn in a performance like that so early in the year," Jackson said. "Going into that headwind I thought 13.6 would have been a good performance." Jackson's fellow Welshman, Paul Gray, the Commonwealth bronze medalist, was second in 14.04.

Melinda Gainsford, of Australia, won the women's 100m in 11.56 and the 200m in 23.33, while her compatriot, Cathy Freeman, took the 400m in 50.96. Paul Biok, of Kenya, won the men's 3,000m in 7min 48.09sec.

## TODAY'S NUMBER

450,000

The number of tickets that have been sold on the domestic market for football's European Championship finals in England in June. Only 90,000 remain for the entire 31-match programme involving 16 countries.

## Chang and Becker in final battle

## Tennis

Michael Chang has only Boris Becker to beat to end his seven-year wait for a second grand slam title after trouncing the defending champion, Andre Agassi, in straight sets in the Australian Open semi-finals in Melbourne yesterday.

However, Becker, who won the title in 1991, will be no pushover after beating the unseeded Australian veteran Mark Woodforde 6-4, 6-2, 6-0 in only 1hr 38min to set up a final against the 23-year-old world No 5. Chang, who won 6-1, 6-4, 7-6, mastered the almost gale-force conditions better than his compatriot and was happy to play a waiting game as Agassi unleashed a string of uncharacteristic errors.

Chang not only used his new, longer racket to devastating effect with 13 aces but was all over the court, running down potential winners, varying the pace of the game with clever top-spin and waiting for the Agassi mistakes.

Agassi obliged and conceded that the wind was a nightmare. "It was one of the windiest days I've ever played in a grand slam tournament," he said. "The wind was kind of playing havoc out there. In a windy situation, a player with a lot of footwork like Chang has the advantage."

Agassi, who had stumbled down a spiral staircase before his first-round match and injured his knee, said he felt flat, a feeling reflected in an astonishing 60 unforced errors. "I don't think anything has been 100 per cent the whole tournament," said Agassi, who played three gruelling five-setters on his way to the semi-final.

"Sometimes your eyes are bigger than your stomach," Brad Gilbert, Agassi's coach, said of his belief that his charge could win this tournament again. "His body just didn't have it for him today. I think he was tired after playing 22 sets in this tournament. The adrenalin pulled him through a few matches but today he hit the wall."

Down two sets, Agassi showed only glimpses of the form that saved him from defeat in the quarter-final against Jim Courier, a win that gave him the points to wrest back the No 1 spot from Pete Sampras.

The Las Vegas battler back from an eight-game losing streak in the second set to salvage some pride, and then broke Chang's booming serve in the third to set up a 4-1 lead.

But Agassi's errors kept mounting and his game cracked beneath the weight of them mid-way through the third set when he hit a forehand long to give Chang the break back and send the match into a tie-break, which Chang took 7-1.

Chang, who is striving for a second grand slam title after winning the French Open as a 17-year-old, said no one could rest on their ranking. "I think it shows the depth of men's tennis now. If you are No 1 in the world it does not mean you are safe any more."

Despite the crushing nature of his defeat, Agassi still backed Becker for his second title here. "I think Boris has a game that can take Chang's speed out of the equation to a certain degree and a guy like Boris serves well. When he's holding, he's good enough to beat anybody."

Becker, the fourth seed, was brutal in his defeat of Woodforde, who had surprised everyone, including himself, in winning his way to a first grand slam semi-final at the 38th attempt.

Becker ignored sentiment and a partisan crowd to blast Woodforde off the court, appropriately wrapping up the Centre Court match with two aces in a third-set whitewash.



Sonic boomer: Boris Becker drives past Mark Woodforde yesterday to reach tomorrow's final against Michael Chang

Photograph: AP

couldn't manage it, but I'm in the final again and I'm going to take another shot at it," he said.

But the world No 4, who has put behind him a run of poor form at the Australian Open since winning the title, now comes up against an in-form player who has not dropped a set in six matches on the way to a third grand slam final.

England's Martin Lee and James Trotman are through to the boys' doubles final at the Australian Open. They defeated the Swedish pair Matthias Hellstrom and Bjorn Rehnborg 7-5 6-2 in the semi-finals yesterday. Lee, 18, and his 16-year-old partner, Trotman, won the boys' doubles at Wimbledon last year.

Results, Sporting Digest, page 27

## Size does make a difference

JOHN ROBERTS

As a 5ft 9in Christian, Michael Chang takes inspiration from the story of David and Goliath. Competing against big-serving opponents of 6ft 4in and above, however, prompted him to try to even things up a little. So he added an inch to the length of his racket.

This was quite in order. The rules allow for a racket to be up to 32in, and Chang's is 29in. But the American's success provoked the authorities to think again, fearing that the goliaths of the game might retaliate by reaching for the biggest club.

As a consequence, a motion seeking to limit the length of rackets to 29in is due to be submitted to the International Tennis Federation's annual meeting in June.

Most rackets are 27in or 28in long, but, as the current issue of ITF News points out: "A rival some 10 inches taller—like Todd Martin—using a 32in racket, would serve the ball from more than a foot higher than Chang using his current racket."

Chang acquired the weapon early in 1994. He took time to adjust to the difference, but persisted with characteristic determination. Maintaining his place in the world's top 10, the

23-year-old gradually increased the potency of his serve and started hitting a surprising number of aces.

Technology has helped, but so has Chang's revised approach to the game. "I spend a heck of a lot more time practising my serve," he says. "When I was younger I used to concentrate on hitting groundstrokes, but when you can win a few free points you don't have to work so hard in every game."

Chang, denied a triumph by Thomas Muster at the French Open last June, has advanced impressively to the Australian Open final. Tomorrow's opponent is Boris Becker, a mere 6ft 3in.

## Questions of Sport

£40,000 to be won

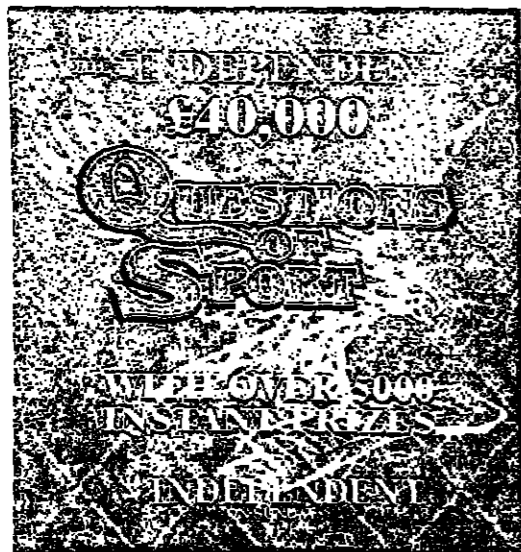
In your paper today you will find another Questions of Sport multi-choice scratch card which, if you answer three sporting questions correctly, gives you the chance of an instant cash prize from £1 to £1,000.

You don't have to be an obsessive fan to play - a good general sporting knowledge should suffice. But remember, you only get one chance to answer each question, so if you are in any doubt, check it out.

The card contains eight games so you can play daily from today through till Friday 2 February.

As well as the daily instant cash prizes there is a weekly accumulator prize of £5,000 to be won.

Play again in tomorrow's Independent on Sunday for two chances to win.



## QUESTIONS OF SPORT CLAIM COUPON

Saturday 27 January 1996  
To claim prizes up to £5  
DO NOT PHONE

Take this coupon to any of the participating Newsagents listed who will give you your prize instantly.

NAME .....  
ADDRESS .....

POSTCODE ..... TELEPHONE .....

To the Newsagent: Please check the card is correct and give the reader the value of their prize. Send this coupon or details supplied on plain paper together with the winning card to your head office for full redemption.

THE INDEPENDENT

## HOW TO PLAY

Today we are playing the section of the card dated Saturday 27 January. Below are three sporting questions, each with three possible answers coded A, B and C. Scratch off your answer to Question One, either A, B or C in the Q1 column then repeat for Q2 and Q3.

## THE QUESTIONS

Q1 Who is the coach of the Welsh national rugby union team?

A: Kevin Bowring  
B: Terry Holmes  
C: Alex Evans

Q2 Which former champion Flat-race jockey retired in 1995?

A: Joe Mercer  
B: Willie Carson  
C: Lester Piggott

Q3 Which 1984 Olympic gold medalist has been on the books of Mansfield Town FC this season?

A: Steve Redgrave  
B: Sebastian Coe  
C: Daley Thompson

## RULES

1. No purchase necessary. Cards are freely available from newsagents or by sending a large size to: Independent Questions of Sport Card Request, PO Box 41, Blackburn X, BB2 6AG. One card per request.  
2. The prizes for each game will be awarded to the player or players making a successful claim.  
3. All claims are subject to scrutiny and cards must be intact to be eligible for a prize. Cards with printing errors are void.  
4. Winners must agree to the publication of their names and photographs in The Independent and the Independent on Sunday.

## IMPORTANT:

Scratch off ONE letter only for each question. If you reveal three identical cash amounts on any one game section on any one day, you win that amount. After you have played the last game on your card, total the cash amounts you have revealed. If your total is £5,000 you win or share the £5,000 accumulator prize. You could also win today's instant prize of £100 by revealing an asterisk.

## HOW TO CLAIM

If you have revealed three identical cash amounts of £5 or under, DO NOT PHONE. Take the claim coupon OR a piece of plain paper with your name and address on it PLUS the relevant section of the card to one of the newsagents listed below.

For prizes over £10, phone 01254 683666 (Irish Republic 0044 1254 683666) between 10.30am and 4pm today. Participating newsagents: WH Smith, John Menzies, Foruays, Martin's, McColl, Dillons, Gibbs, Mace, Supermarts, United News Shops, Star News, K Balfour, Eason, GT News, Paperchain - Village Store, Paper Shop.

If you have any difficulty redeeming your card and coupon for a prize send both to: Independent Questions of Sport claims; PO Box 60, Burnley, BB10 1SH.

5. Should more prizes be claimed than are available in any prize category, for any reason, a simple draw will take place for the prize.  
6. Persons under 16 years old, employees of Newspaper Publishing plc, Mirror Group, Europrint Promotions Ltd., Newspaper Publishing plc retail agents, their agents and families are not allowed to play.  
7. The Editors' decisions are final in all matters relating to the games. No correspondence can be entered into.  
8. Newspaper Publishing plc reserve the right to stop the game at any time and change the conditions.

work places

know which game match A was in the first place. You'd need to be an expert in the *Times* crossword to decipher what was going on in the rest of the football world.

It's a little like playing with all that and, as the new stadiums have bloomed post-Taylor, the screens have started to appear. Highbury has one. White Hart Lane has one. Old Trafford hasn't yet, but when one is installed you imagine miniature versions of the stadium will be available for £19,999 at the United Nations. None, though, is operated with quite the élan of the Upton Park screen. Not for it the simple expedient of listing the teams, or perhaps showing action replays of near misses and moments of controversy. Taking its lead from the computerised screens at the World Cup, which



African cricket grounds, on which cartoon stumps fly every time a wicket is taken, or sad looking ducks waddle pavilion-wards when a player is out for nought, the Upton screen feels the need, like an Internet

When a player was booked, for instance, a giant animated ref appeared on the screen and flourished his huge yellow card; when there were a free-kick, the words free and kick performed a little two-step and formed a wall, before the K of kick stepped forward and bent the ball round his colleagues; after a West Ham near miss, up on screen came the word "oohoo!" as if it were the crowd; and so it went. The British flag crowded over the top of the field, and the names of the players who had been injured. And whenever a player went down injured a cartoon sequence ensued, worthy of a contract with Warner Brothers as the latest *Looney Tune*. Up on the screen came the words "Player injured. Oh no, this looks like a job for...der der der..."

Such cunning subversion made you think what an intriguing idea it would be if a scoreboard was

Never mind Super Sponge, if a member of the opposition went down injured the scoreboard could, in a revivalist nod to the old 1970s chant, be filled with a little cartoon dustbin chugging on to remove the felled player. And if one defeat signalled the start of a bad run, the screen could lead the chants of "sack the manager" or organise a petition to demand the resignation of the board. Ideal for the computer generation - not so much terrace hooligans as video nasties.

# Switzer enters the last chance saloon

Charismatic but hardly revered, he was in the highly unusual position of inheriting a team that needed no adjustments to continue its success "Leave well alone," was Johnson's acerbic advice before Switzer's first game.

Switzer, whose style was anyway more relaxed than the driven Johnson's, adopted a low profile in his first year and navigated the Cowboys to the NFC Championship game where they lost to the Super Bowl-winning San Francisco 49ers.

As the Cowboys prepared for this season, Switzer made a conscious decision to take firmer control. "I told you a year ago that it was your team," he said to his players. "What I'm telling you today is now it's my team."

Which was a bit rich because everybody knows that the Cowboys are really Jerry Jones's team, and therein lies Switzer's biggest problem.

Any successor was going to have to put up with Jones's all-pervading presence, but the complexities of the relationship between owner and head coach, allied to the continual questioning of Switzer's abilities, have made this a difficult season for the Cowboys. "When we win a

the Cowboys. When we win a game, we are supposed to win it. When we lose, it's always a game we were supposed to win," Troy Aikman, their quarterback, said.

One of Switzer's lighter moments came after defeating Green Bay in the NFC Championship game a fortnight ago. After the victory Aikman, who is widely reported to have his own misgivings about Switzer's style, gave his head coach a game ball, and the players made a

All the same, reports that the Cowboys must prevail tomorrow for Switzer to keep his job persist. Jones, however, is not so sure. Given the premium he has put on another Super Bowl, and the on-again-off-again feud between the sides, defeat in Phoenix would be regarded as a catastrophe in Cowboy country, and maybe one that required a lynching.

The Cowboys should win and win handsomely, but of one thing we can be sure. If they get a fourth and short inside their own 30-yard line, Barry Switzer will want the half away.

Just about the only way in which the Dallas Cowboys are not the perfect ambassadors for their part of the world is that they represent the Lone Star State. This is plainly ridiculous. The Cowboys have enough brilliance in their midst to constitute a minor constellation.

That apart, the team from Texas are the sporting embodiment of an area where youngsters learn to strut before they can walk and modesty is regarded as a character fault. From the way Jerry Jones swaggers along the sideline as though

he owns the place (he does) to Michael Irvin's exaggerated end-zone celebrations, this is a group that has enjoyed its marked dominance in the 1990s, and in many ways the only surprise about Deion Sanders is that it took the NFL's flashiest individual so long to find his natural home.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, by contrast, come from the game's blue-collar heartland and in their head coach, Bill Cowher, have one of the few of his calling who would not look out of place working in the industry which gives his team its name.

When the two teams meet in Phoenix tomorrow, it will be as

a much a clash of cultures as a battle for Super Bowl XXX. Unfortunately for those seeking working-class heroes, it is not just symbolically that it will be a contest between haves and have-nots.

For all their posturing, the Cowboys are by some distance the more talented of the two sides, and in particular possess an offense to compare with any ever assembled. The trio of the quarterback Troy Aikman, the running back Emmitt Smith, and the wide receiver Irvin tend to dominate the headlines, but the supporting cast is hardly less impressive, with arguably the League's best full back and

Pittsburgh's strength lies in their menacing offense. The team is expected to have a chance to find their outside linebackers Greg Lloyd and Kevin Greene will have to make Aikman's acquaintance on a regular basis. Lloyd, Lawrence Taylor's natural successor, was frank about his goals this week. "Not that you go out there with the intention to hurt, but to get him out of the game," he said. The Steelers' cornerback Rod Woodson will play for the first time since suffering a serious knee injury in the opening game

of the season, but the Cowboys too, are buoyed by the return of an outstanding defensive player who will play 11 days. Many snaps hit Haley. I don't know how many, but I will play," Barry Switzer, the Dallas head coach, said of the defensive end missing for two months with back trouble.

Just about the only thing the underdogs do have going for them is history. In the 1970s, the sides met twice at the Super Bowl, with the Steelers prevailing on each occasion. But that was in the era of the Steel Curtain. Tomorrow belongs to the Golden Cowboys, who will win by at least a couple of touchdowns.

## Stars to expand the Dallas dynasty

**MATT TENCH**

Just about the only way in which the Dallas Cowboys are not the perfect ambassadors for their part of the world is that they represent the Lone Star State. This is plainly ridiculous. The Cowboys have enough brilliance in their midst to constitute a minor constellation.

That apart, the team from Texas are the sporting embodiment of an area where youngsters learn to strut before they can walk and modesty is regarded as a character fault.

From the way Jerry Jones swaggers along the sideline as though

he owns the place (he does) to Michael Irvin's exaggerated end-zone celebrations, this is a group that has enjoyed its marked dominance in the 1990s, and in many ways the only surprise about Deion Sanders is that it took the NFL's flashiest individual so long to find his natural home.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, by contrast, come from the game's blue-collar heartland and in their head coach, Bill Cowher, have one of the few of his calling who would not look out of place working in the industry which gives his team its name.

When the two teams meet in Phoenix tomorrow, it will be as

a much a clash of cultures as a battle for Super Bowl XXX. Unfortunately for those seeking working-class heroes, it is not just symbolically that it will be a contest between haves and have-nots.

For all their posturing, the Cowboys are by some distance the more talented of the two sides, and in particular possess an offense to compare with any ever assembled. The trio of the quarterback Troy Aikman, the running back Emmitt Smith, and the wide receiver Irvin tend to dominate the headlines, but the supporting cast is hardly less impressive, with arguably the League's best full back and

Pittsburgh's strength lies in their menacing offense. The team is expected to have a chance to find their outside linebackers Greg Lloyd and Kevin Greene will have to make Aikman's acquaintance on a regular basis. Lloyd, Lawrence Taylor's natural successor, was frank about his goals this week. "Not that you go out there with the intention to hurt, but to get him out of the game," he said. The Steelers' cornerback Rod Woodson will play for the first time since suffering a serious knee injury in the opening game

of the season, but the Cowboys too, are buoyed by the return of an outstanding defensive player who will play 11 days. Many snaps hit Haley. I don't know how many, but I will play," Barry Switzer, the Dallas head coach, said of the defensive end missing for two months with back trouble.

Just about the only thing the underdogs do have going for them is history. In the 1970s, the sides met twice at the Super Bowl, with the Steelers prevailing on each occasion. But that was in the era of the Steel Curtain. Tomorrow belongs to the Golden Cowboys, who will win by at least a couple of touchdowns.

## WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

[illegible]



**RACING: Top jump jockeys' agent Dave Roberts works on through the freeze-up to put keep his clients busy**

## Booking rides proves a monster operation

RICHARD EDMONDSON

Dave Roberts is a sports agent, but the only time he says "monster" is while reading fairy stories to his two children.

In the old days agent used to be a nice word. It described the Avon lady and 007, but then along came the beneficiaries of the housing boom of the 1980s and the creation of Eric Hall in the football world. Roberts, who could fill a jockeys' room with his stable of riders, is trying to change all that. "I don't class myself as an agent, it's a word I like. I'd describe myself as someone who just books rides," he said.

When it comes to putting bottoms on saddles in jump racing there is no one to touch Dave Roberts. He represents 15 jockeys, many of them leading names, and makes what he calls "a good living", slicing 10 per cent off the 10 per cent his men receive in prize-money commission. There is, however, a price to pay, and it is time.

The windows of opportunity to speak to Roberts are open as frequently as those of a mountain lodge in the Rockies. The first words likely to be heard when you call him are "can you hang on a moment please?"

It all starts at a time when even Postle has yet to pull his pants on. "I work from 5.30 to 9.30 [and that is not the passage where the hands pass each other just three times]," Roberts said. "You get calls any time between those hours."

Phase one is sifting through the entries and form books, pinpointing the likely winners for his cavalrymen. Contact with the nation's trainers is made from then until the start of racing,

which Roberts views at his local bookies (and a hugely professional sight he looks too as he makes calls on his mobile phone between events). The agent leaves when the broom comes out to sweep away the dead slips and spends the rest of the evening back on the blower.

This, it has to be said, does not happen all the time. Every year, without fail, Roberts takes the family abroad for a fortnight.

'Adrian has put in so much since coming over here it's a tragedy he hasn't been champion so far'

For the first two weeks in July (and presumably asks them what they have been doing for the previous 12 months). For the rest of the year, seven days a week, he is the chap who appears to have been the victim of a prankster with superglue who has sabotaged the telephone earpiece.

During the ice age that has swept in this weekend, Roberts is hardly resting by the log fire with a Scotch in his hand. "In the bad weather trainers are ringing me up and jokingly asking if I'm taking it easy," he said. "Relatively I am, but there are still entries coming out."

Dave Roberts, though, has not always been as committed as this to the problems set before him. By the age of 12, a lot of the chalk he saw was not going on blackboards but rather against horses' names. "I used to skive off school and go to Kempton and Sandown and get the bus to Ascot," he said. "I used to stand outside the

track and wait for somebody to get me in."

Briefly the manager for an Indian owner who had horses with Geoff Lewis, Roberts first represented Jason Swift part-time. Swift lived with Dean Gallagher, and Paul Harley moved in with him. Soon, Roberts was attracting aspiring young men like Fagin, and his attention concentrated on the winter game.

Not many of Britain's train-

champion jockey so far," Roberts said.

"To ride 194 winners, like he did in the first year we were close, and not be the champion is a scandal really. If someone was awake towards the end of that season I was on the phone to them and I watched every race. I was close to a nervous wreck so I hate to think of the demands it placed on Adrian and Richard [Dunwoody]."

"Last year I firmly believe we had the ammunition to win, but we had a freak accident. Adrian was riding as well as ever and we had all this ammo waiting, but then Desert Fighter ran through a wing at Hereford."

After a fall at Leicester on Tuesday, Maguire is again sick-listed with a knee injury. But as he was Roberts' professional springboard, Maguire is probably his favourite, though he does not let that affect riding decisions. When two or more from the agent's stable are at a race meeting where there is a spare ride, he insists that the trainer takes the pick.

It is ironic following the last two years that Roberts is now destined to contribute to his first jockeys' title with someone other than Maguire. He also represents Tony McCoy and David Bridgwater who, accidents apart, seem to have this campaign's test between them.

If either win the title Roberts, at 35, will reappraise his position as he will have achieved his ambition in what he considers "a young man's game". If he goes, it will be bad news, not only for several jockeys but for British Telecom. In one quarter last year, the three times and mobile telephone that are Roberts' essential tools cost him £2,000.



It's good to talk: Operating from his Reigate home in Surrey, Dave Roberts uses the form book to sort out likely winners from the entries before spending up to £2,000 a quarter on calls to trainers, persuading them to use his men. Photograph: Adam Scott

## Frost hits Cheltenham for third time in a row

Jack Frost must have once had a really bad day's punting at Cheltenham. The conspiracy of the elements, against the Gloucestershire course continues with the loss of a third consecutive card this afternoon, writes Richard Edmondson.

The last time Cheltenham raced was on 8 December. This has denied top hurdlers a run in events such as the Bula and today's Cleeve Hurdle. Kempton's Christmas Hurdle was also lost. But help is at hand for those searching for a prep race for the Cheltenham Festival.

A new conditions contest, the Levy Board Hurdle, will be held at Ascot a week on Wednesday, it was announced yesterday, while there will be increased funding of three other hurdle races in the next two weeks. In addition, the Great Yorkshire Chase, which was lost in today's abandoned Doncaster card, will now be transferred to the first March meeting at Town Moor.

Those in charge at Cheltenham were left searching for small specks of comfort following an abandonment which came after three weeks of clear weather. They came up with the view that less racing meant less chance for horses to get injured before the Festival, and the thought that National Hunt racing's showpiece will now be run on near virgin turf.

There was little time given to the suggestion that today's card could be moved wholesale to Monday, given the bleak forecast. Lingfield's all-weather fixture stands alone today, as may Southwell on Monday as there are inspections tomorrow for the turf meetings at Ayr and Plumpton.

The abandonment of Cheltenham also took with it the Pinar Property Investments Chase. RICHARD EDMONDSON NAB: Impington (Lingfield 1.40) NB: Halbert (Lingfield 3.20)

and meant the new upholder of jump racing's appeal. One Man, would not get the opportunity to prove that his excellence extends to the undulating arena at the base of Cleeve Hill.

Indeed, the grey will now go straight to the Gold Cup in an effort to bury the memory of his previous visits to the course.

One Man has run just twice at Prestbury Park, when finishing 30 lengths behind Gaelstrom as a novice hurdler in 1992, and then a poor ninth behind Monsieur Le Cure when favourite for the Sun Alliance (Novices') Chase two years ago. Gordon Richards, the seven-year-old's trainer, does not voice disquiet about this record outside his

front door however, and believes he can satisfactorily prepare One Man.

"He won't go anywhere for a race in preparation as we can always use a local course to get him ready," Joanne Richards, the trainer's wife, said yesterday. "It would be between 10 days and a fortnight before Cheltenham, but where will depend on which course offers the best ground and kindest clerk of the course. Touch wood he is fine at the moment, and Gordon had got him just right for Saturday, but unfortunately the situation was always looking hopeless."

Others with something to look forward to are those who will benefit from the extra funding secured by the BHB. The three novice contests over timber to have their funds swelled are Wetherby's Acomb Hurdle, the Sidney Banks Memorial Hurdle at Huntingdon and Sandown's Ripley Hurdle. The Moet & Chandon Chase at Kelso a week on Tuesday may also receive a transfusion.

The new Ascot hurdle has been made weight for age not because organisers believe it will be more popular than a limited handicap (they think the opposite) but because several conditions events have already been called off this winter. The Levy Board Hurdle, with £15,000 in added prize money, will be over two and a half miles.

## Swing lies low until autumn

Celtic Swing, not seen on a track since last summer, is unlikely to race again until the autumn with the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and Breeders' Cup Turf among his targets.

The colt is fully recovered from the knee injury, sustained during the Irish Derby, that ended his 1995 campaign. Nick Babbington, racing manager for owner Peter Savill, said yesterday.

However, although Celtic Swing will be put back into training by Lady Herries immediately, he will undergo a patient build-up and not reappear until the back end of the Flat season once the ground eases.

Celtic Swing had been entered for the Dubai World Cup in March but had been made only a reserve for the race.

## Pearce rides Durkan

Two top amateur riders, Lydia Pearce and John Durkan, exchanged angry words after an incident in the first race at Southwell yesterday. After the stewards had investigated, they banned Pearce for two days for careless riding.

She had steered Gold Blade, the 13-8 favourite, to an easy six-length win but the stewards found that after five furlongs of the 12-furlong amateurs' event Pearce had hampered Durkan's mount, Father Dan, who had in turn impeded Anthea Parrell's Comtec's Legend.

But later, Pearce's husband Jeff, the trainer of Gold Blade, did not seem in a conciliatory mood. "Lydia and John did get a bit close," he said. "She probably went by him too fast and he got upset."

Durkan, however, was ad-

mant that one of them would have ended up on the floor had he not reined back his mount.

"The stewards saw it to suspend her for two days, which says it all. Dangerous riding is dangerous riding," Durkan said. The stewards allowed the placings to stand as it was deemed the interference had not affected the result. Both Father Dan and Comtec's Legend were unplaced.

The Jockey Club is to hold two inquiries after horses trained by John White and Jeremy Glover have tested positive for furofen, a prohibited substance. Take Two, trained by White, was found to contain the substance after a race at Stratford on 26 October last year, as was Glover's Croft Pool after running at Newmarket 12 days earlier.

### LINGFIELD

1.40 Impington 2.10 Agent

2.45 Hand Of Straw

GOING: Standard.

STALLS 5/4 1m outside. Remainder: Inside.

DRAWN 5/4 1m outside. Remainder: Inside.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

### HYPERION

3.20 Halbert

3.50 Distinct Beauty (nb)

4.20 WILD STRAWBERRY (nap)

GOING: Standard.

STALLS 5/4 1m outside. Remainder: Inside.

DRAWN 5/4 1m outside. Remainder: Inside.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

RECESSION surface; left-hand, sharp undulating course.

### CHURCHILL CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS E) £4,500 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £3,132

1. 0002-05 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

2. 0002-06 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

3. 0002-07 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

4. 0002-08 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

5. 0002-09 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

6. 0002-10 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

7. 0002-11 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

8. 0002-12 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

9. 0002-13 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

10. 0002-14 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

11. 0002-15 SWEET SAVANNAH (B) (B) 64h Cheltenham 5/9 7 J. Dwyer 7

sport

FA CUP FOURTH ROUND: Distinguished member of Wembley hall of fame meets old adversaries today. Guy Hodgson reports

# Porterfield back to haunt Leeds

Maybe when you have got 27 of the things, you can afford to be a bit with them. When Colin Todd was asked this week about FA Cup finals, he said he would gladly have sacrificed some of his England caps to have played in one. The Bolton Wanderers manager did not presume to put a value on the winning goal at Wembley.

Not that he would have to go far to get an estimate. The club president, Nat Lofthouse, scored twice in Bolton's 2-0 win over Manchester United in 1958, while Todd's newly appointed coach, Ian Porterfield, got the most famous goal of his life against Leeds United in the final of 1973. FA Cup glory runs vigorously through the corridors of Burnden Park.

Porterfield, 50 next month, took on what most would assume is the nearest thing to mission impossible - helping keep Bolton in the Premiership - three weeks ago and, fate being what it is, almost the first thing he was confronted with was the FA Cup fourth-round draw against, of all teams, Leeds. Memories of 23 years ago came flooding back.

In 1973 he was part of a Sunderland team whose Cup run fired imaginations beyond those

normally stirred by events on a football field. Among the Second Division's relegation candidates at Christmas, they were transformed by the appointment of Bob Stokoe as manager, sweeping past the then might of

**'I was one of the lucky ones who achieved something that many people dream of'**

Manchester City and Arsenal on the way to Wembley.

There, every logical argument suggested the Wearside dream would end. The opponents in the final were a Leeds team whose image was the antithesis of romance. They were hugely skilled but had a frowning hardness that had all but killed affection outside West Yorkshire.

For six years running they had finished in the top three in the First Division and were champions the following season. Every Leeds player at Wemb-

ley was an international but that could not insure them against the whim of Cup fortune.

Porterfield, whose right foot was largely for standing on, used it to volley the winner while at the other end Jim Montgomery invited comparisons with Gordon Banks' breathtaking save against Pelé three years previously by keeping out a shot from Peter Larmer. The country, lulled to the charms of a brilliant Leeds side, rejoiced.

Alan Huby, in the *Sunday Express* wrote: "It was not so much the Cup final of the century as a shattering CRASH which could be heard throughout the world of football. Soccer has never known - or seen - anything like it. It was the Sunderland miracle... the Roker explosion that destroyed Leeds, the overwhelming favourites, in the biggest Wembley upset of them all."

Even at the time Porterfield kept a grip on his excitement, describing the goal thus: "I just turned and whacked it. I knew as soon as I connected that no keeper could stop it. Although, come to think of it, Jimmy Montgomery probably would have done. What a game he had."

Now the owner of what, for a fleeting moment, was the most famous right foot in football is reticent to talk about memories. "I don't want to take attention away from Colin and the players at Bolton," he said. "It was a long, long time ago. I hit it right. I hit it sweet and it went in. These things happen in football."

"I was one of the lucky ones who achieved something many people dream of. It was nice for me, it was nice for the family but it was nice for a lot of others too. Particularly Bob Stokoe, who did such a terrific job with us but most of all the people of Sunderland. It was no more special for me than for others."

Porterfield arrived at Bolton after a managerial journey that took him to Rotherham, Sheffield United, Aberdeen, Reading and Chelsea. The last appointment ended with his dismissal in 1993, which probably ranks as the worst point of his career, but one he confronts without rancour.

"You have your bad moments," he said with a low voice that still carries a strong Scottish



Schemer: Ian Porterfield, the Bolton coach, hopes to bring about Leeds' downfall again at Burnden Park this afternoon Photograph: Neal Simpson



Porterfield celebrates the most famous goal of his life in the 1973 FA Cup final Photograph: Colorsport

accent. "Football's always been about ups and downs but I've always been a positive person. For every winner there has to be a loser. I roll my sleeves up and work hard to put things right."

Nowhere more so than at his next job after Stamford Bridge, in Zambia where he coached a national side which had lost 18 players in a plane crash to within a match of making the World Cup of 1994. A draw against Morocco in Casablanca would have earned them a place in the United States, but they lost.

Porterfield then coached a club side in Saudi Arabia but was available when Bolton dismissed Roy McFarland as joint manager early in the New Year. "I've known Colin since we played together at Sunderland," he said. "I knew from coming here as a player and a manager that this has always been a beautiful

place in terms of the welcome you receive. Right from Nat Lofthouse down. Whether you win, lose or draw you're well received. There's good continuity, everyone seems settled here."

**'I knew from coming here as a player and a manager that this has always been a beautiful place in terms of the welcome you receive'**

Nice environment, lovely people. That's why I didn't have to think too hard about coming here."

Porterfield has a five-month contract that will be reviewed by club, manager and coach in the summer although results since his arrival have shown an improvement. Bradford City were

beaten 3-0 in the third round of the Cup and in the Premiership there has been a 1-0 win over Wimbledon and a creditable 2-1 defeat at Newcastle.

Burnden Park has been re-

"The morale has been very good," he said. "The lads were disappointed that the results weren't going for them but they're in good spirits. They're chippy and up for the games. They certainly don't give the impression of a team going out expecting to get beaten."

"We've got 14 League games to turn the corner and so far it has been encouraging. We were unfortunate to lose at Newcastle but we came away with great credit. We were playing a side who most people believe will win the Premiership and we competed very well. That can only help the players' confidence."

A win today would hardly cause an outbreak of self-inspection, either. "In the last few years the Bolton public have come to expect good runs," Porterfield said. "They got to the Coca-Cola Cup final last year

and reached the play-offs at Wembley, so the fans are used to big games. And this is a big game for us. Leeds are just 40 miles up the road from here."

The outcome of today's match is possibly the hardest to predict in the fourth round. Anyone searching for an omen would be interested to know, however, that Stokoe arrived at Burnden Park this week and spent an afternoon talking to his former charge. "He is a lovely man," Porterfield said, "and he takes time to see how his players are getting on." Significant? Porterfield dismissed the notion with a snort. "What happened 20 years ago will have no bearing at all on Saturday."

It is nice for the people of Bolton to hope, though. They would probably give away a couple of Colin Todd's caps for another trip to Wembley, too.

best while Hammond (chicken-pox) is recovering. Wdowczyk (tail) and Achilles tendon) is ruled out. Jones and Gillies are likely to be called up, with Bernal switching to the centre of defence. Reserve goalkeeper Cotton and McClair have been added to United's squad. Pallister (back) misses his 15th game.

**Sheff Wednesday v Liverpool**  
Sheff Wednesday's manager Davies is awaiting late fitness checks on central defender Walton (ankle ligaments) and striker Spink (hamstring). Liverpool manager Evans keeps the team that beat Leeds 5-0.

**Southampton v Crewe**  
New signing Walters is in line for his Saints Cup debut. Striker Watson may be recalled to partner Walters and Shipperley in attack. Rivers will provide the attacking spearhead for Crewe who will be without captain and central defender Macoskey (groin).

**Nottingham v Wolves**  
Goalkeeper Walker, captain Walsh and Steve Wilson are expected to start. Tottenham, central defender (shoulder) is set to be recalled by Wolves and likely to replace Walsh.

**West Ham v Charlton**  
Gordon has been included in the Hammers' 25-man squad which will play Wolves at Upton Park. Wolves are recalled from their loan to Portsmouth. Injured striker and forward Rowland are ruled out. Charlton defender Henderson is out with an ankle problem. Striker Livingston has been added to the squad as cover.

**Sheff Wed v Aston Villa**  
Gordon covers with European Cup and League Championship honours with Villa but he'll be sitting out. His former club's manager sends his former star scrambling out of the clubhouse. The Blades build on their third round defeat at Arsenal. Villa manager Line has named 19 players which best of them are 2-1 winners. Striker Johnson continues to show behind striker Higgs and Higgs. There is no news of a player who has been reported to suffer a knee injury.

## To blow it from here would be so tragic... so utterly typical

Sky's decision to cover the derby between Queen's Park Rangers and Chelsea was one of those rare occasions when television abetted rather than hindered match-going fans. The extra 24 hours to sleep off New Year's Eve revelries meant that Blues supporters saw 1996 in with a spring in their stride. In previous years we have always seemed to have to drag ourselves out of bed at some ungodly hour for an 11am kick-off.

I found myself sitting next to a father and son who both supported Rangers. The boy was about eight and spent the half-hour before kick-off asking me questions about how Chelsea had been playing during the season, then dissecting my answers with his father to try and provide himself with the reassurance that the Superhoops were going to win three points in the battle against relegation.

The first half was the worst performance I have witnessed by two Premiership teams this season - countless passes went woefully astray. Then Bradley Allen scored a gem in the 70th minute and celebrated wildly. Matthew Brazier's own goal deflated him somewhat but, as the boy kept telling me: "A point in a derby game has got to be considered a good result."

With the scoreboard clock having been reading 90 for

### FAN'S EYE VIEW No 134 Chelsea JON LADD

what seemed like an aeon, Paul Furlong rose and slotted in the winner. I rose as one with the massed Chelsea ranks to salute the victory.

When I looked down I saw the boy, he was agitated and then held his face in his hands so that no one would see him crying. As the final whistle went I put an arm on his shoulder. I've been there enough times with Chelsea to know the emptiness that defeat brings. "It'll get better," I said, but I knew he didn't believe me.

The following Sunday found me nearly hoarse from screaming Chelsea to know the unlikely victory against Newcastle in the FA Cup. It seemed highly improbable that the team of the moment would make the same mistake they had a month earlier when we had beaten them in the league, but despite squandering a handful of chances and some increasingly nervous defending, we led 1-0 deep into injury-time. As the ball drifted out for a goal kick, my heart soared. I knew that as the ball

crossed high over the halfway line that the referee would blow his whistle and we would be in the fourth round.

Dimitri Kharin's kick defied description, as did the fact that, rather than stay on his line and let the defence close Les Ferdinand down, he ran forward, opening his legs just wide enough for the ball to be poked through them.

I looked desperately for a linesman's flag and then to the referee, perhaps he had blown the final whistle before the ball had gone in. Chelsea kicked off and shattered these fragile illusions. I put my head in my hands and for a minute I was eight again.

And so the story almost ends. A final twist was provided when the draw decreed that in the fourth round QPR would play Newcastle (or Chelsea).

Three of us travelled together to the replay. One of the party "had a feeling", sadly the last time he made that pronouncement we had lost 4-1 at home to Manchester United.

It was a brilliant match but, at 2-1 down with two minutes to go, when Raoud Gullit headed the ball past Pavel Srna, it was difficult to tell who was the most amazed, the Newcastle fans that we had had the temerity to do to them what they had done to us, or ourselves that they had let us.

No more goals meant the game would be decided by penalties. Last year we had lost to Millwall through the dreaded spot kicks. Srnaek was playing a blinder and we were strangers in a strange land. On the whole, things had looked better.

Peter Beardsley missed, then Kevin Hitchcock saved Steve Watson's shot and after four penalties we were 2-0 up. To blow it from here would be so tragic. To blow it from here would be typical Chelsea.

When Eddie Newton's shot went in everything stopped for a second. He stood smiling at us and we grinned back. Then Wise dashed forward from the halfway line and pandemonium ensued.

On leaving the stadium the Newcastle fans wished us well for the rest of the competition and we told them they'd win the championship. I recognised the tears in their eyes... but this time they were different to the tears in mine.

## Clubs succeed in reversing Uefa ban

Rick Parry, the Premier League chief executive, was a relieved man after Tottenham and Wimbledon had their European ban overturned - and he then set his sights on restoring England's lost Uefa Cup place.

Parry and Graham Kelly, his Football Association counterpart, had flown to Geneva yesterday to support the two London clubs in their appeal against the ban - ruling them out of European competition the first time they qualified in the next five years - imposed for their half-hearted participation in last summer's Intertoto Cup.

That appeal, accompanied by a wealth of documentary evidence, was successful, with fines of £90,000 for Spurs and £60,000 for Wimbledon levied instead. The fines, which with the costs add up to around £180,000, will be shared equally between the 20 Premiership clubs.

Parry indicated that the next step would be to try to regain the Uefa Cup place taken away from England because of the attitude of Spurs, Wimbledon and Sheffield Wednesday to the much-derided competition.

"There isn't an obvious route of appeal because this was a decision made by Uefa's executive committee but we're going to ask them gracefully if they will reconsider," he said. "I don't see this as a kind of victory, Alan Sugar, the Tottenham owner, said. "All we have done is get back to the position that 90 other clubs in England have naturally every year, the right to earn a place in Europe."

For Tottenham, the value of a successful run in Europe next season could be in excess of £4m, dwarfing their share of the fine. But Sugar stressed that his club had still paid the price for doing the decent thing.

"The reason we entered was to protect British football from the punitive measures of banning all our clubs from Europe that could have devastated the game in this country," he said. "I feel it's a bit like us being accused of robbing a bank when we hadn't, being found guilty, but then being told not to worry because the police would pay the fine."

For Wimbledon, there was a degree of disappointment that they had not been cleared totally and Ned Hammam, brother of the club owner, Sam, had another metaphor. "It's like putting out a fire that we didn't start," he said.

Asked if English clubs would take part in the tournament in future, Kelly replied: "You never say never. You don't know what the situation will be in the future."

Parry added: "We've already decided that we won't take part this summer because of the European Championship. We have learned our lesson now, though. If we're going to take part, we will do so properly - we won't get it wrong again."

### TEAM NEWS

**Bolton v Leeds**  
Fitzhugh returns to Bolton after suspension but fellow defender Tappin (ankle) is unavailable. Striker De Freitas is added to the squad. Leeds are concerned over the fitness of defenders Doherty (right), Johnson (hamstring) and Pemberton (knee). Chapman, Ford and Beasley are suspended, while Vela, Whitting and Redfern are on international duty. Managers Wilkinson must choose between Sealey and Bullock in goal.

**Charlton v Brentford**  
Defender Humphrey is available again for Charlton after suspension but may struggle to replace Brown. Brentford are forced into one change in midfield. Connolly, on loan from West Ham, is ineligible. Martin, Anderson and O'Neill compete for his place.

**Everton v Port Vale**  
Everton manager Royles names an unchanged starting line-up, but has a headache reducing Liverpool on the substitutes' bench. Vale's captain, Ian Hogg, is struggling to shake off a thigh injury. Midfielder Talbot is expected to recover from a dead leg.

**Millwall v Peterborough**  
Winger Rowe is likely to make the Hammers' starting line-up at Colliers' expense. Defender Clark is in line to return to Peterborough after a knee injury. Sedgmore is expected to keep his place.

**Millwall v Wimbledon**  
Boro's player-manager Robinson has been ruled out by a calf injury and Aubrey (knee) is doubtful. The Dons have in-form midfielder. Egan suspended but there could be a surprise Cup appearance from Jones. Striker Clark (back) is doubtful.

**Merton Forest v Oxford United**  
Forest look certain to be without captain Pearce (head). His likely replacement is Phillips. Oxford will be without captain Ford and winger Angel who have hamstring injuries. Marsh deputises for Ford. Midfielder Smith has still to decide who will partner Moody.

**Reading v Manchester United**  
Reading have goalkeeping problems; Whalley (thigh) faces a late fitness test while Hammond (chicken-pox) is recovering. Wdowczyk (tail) and Achilles tendon) is ruled out. Jones and Gillies are likely to be called up, with Bernal switching to the centre of defence. Reserve goalkeeper Cotton and McClair have been added to United's squad. Pallister (back) misses his 15th game.

**Sheff Wednesday v Liverpool**  
Sheff Wednesday's manager Davies is awaiting late fitness checks on central defender Walton (ankle ligaments) and striker Spink (hamstring). Liverpool manager Evans keeps the team that beat Leeds 5-0.

**Southampton v Crewe**  
New signing Walters is in line for his Saints Cup debut. Striker Watson may be recalled to partner Walters and Shipperley in attack. Rivers will provide the attacking spearhead for Crewe who will be without captain and central defender Macoskey (groin).

**Nottingham v Wolves**  
Goalkeeper Walker, captain Walsh and Steve Wilson are expected to start. Tottenham, central defender (shoulder) is set to be recalled by Wolves and likely to replace Walsh.

**West Ham v Charlton**  
Gordon has been included in the Hammers' 25-man squad which will play Wolves at Upton Park. Wolves are recalled from their loan to Portsmouth. Injured striker and forward Rowland are ruled out. Charlton defender Henderson is out with an ankle problem. Striker Livingston has been added to the squad as cover.

**Sheff Wed v Aston Villa**  
Gordon covers with European Cup and League Championship honours with Villa but he'll be sitting out. His former club's manager sends his former star scrambling out of the clubhouse. The Blades build on their third round defeat at Arsenal. Villa manager Line has named 19 players which best of them are 2-1 winners. Striker Johnson continues to show behind striker Higgs and Higgs. There is no news of a player who has been reported to suffer a knee injury.

Typical Examples:

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS								
LENDER	A LOAN OF £4,000			What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank	A LOAN OF £7,000			What you save with Hamilton Direct Bank
	APR*	48 monthly repayments	Total amount payable		APR*	48 monthly repayments	Total amount payable	
Hamilton Direct Bank	16.9%	£112.79	£5,413.92		13.8%	£188.07	£9,027.36	
Merchants' Credit	19.9%	£118.10	£5,668.80	£254.88	19.9%	£206.68	£9,920.64	£893.28
Equity 128 Group plc	19.9%	£118.10	£5,668.80	£254.88	17.9%	£200.49	£9,623.52	£596.16
Royal Bank of Scotland plc	18.7%	£116.00	£5,568.00	£154.08	17.5%	£199.32	£9,567.36	£540.00

\*APR is based on £10,000 for 12 months. APR is based on the standard rate for the lender. A series of payments of £100 per month is assumed. The offer is not available to the full of Max. Hamilton Direct Bank: A division of HFC Bank plc, an authorised institution under the Banking Act 1987. Registered Office: North Street, Walsley, Walsley, S4 4TD. Registered in England No 1117265.

You can take out an unsecured Personal Loan for any reason with Hamilton Direct Bank, a division of HFC Bank plc and take advantage of our competitive fixed rates:

**13.8% APR** on unsecured Personal Loans from £5,000 - £10,000

**16.9% APR** on unsecured Personal Loans from £500 - £4,999

Call now for an instant decision on:

**FREEPHONE 0800 30 3000**

Quoting ref 91017200

Handwritten note: 150

# Edwards freed to tackle Bramley and continue his Cup run

**Rugby League**  
**DAVE HADFIELD**

Wigan will have their captain, Shaun Edwards, available to maintain his record of playing in every Challenge Cup tie since their astonishing run of 42 victories began in 1988.

Edwards' appeal against a one match ban for a high tackle on Bradford's Robbie Paul

succeeded yesterday, leaving him free to face Bramley tomorrow in the fourth round.

"Obviously I'm glad," said Edwards. "If I hit someone I expect to be suspended, but in this case I was innocent."

Bramley, four from the foot of the Second Division at the end of the season last week, can

hark back to a famous Cup performance against Wigan in 1984. Ironically in Edwards' first-

succeeded yesterday, leaving him free to face Bramley tomorrow in the fourth round. "Obviously I'm glad," said Edwards. "If I hit someone I expect to be suspended, but in this case I was innocent."

play as well as they did in beating Chorley in the last round. The new regimes at St Helens and Warrington get an early and demanding test. Saints' new coach, Shaun McRae, is first in the firing line, when his new side take on Castleford today.

McRae is without Joey Hayes, with a hamstring strain, but has Anthony Sullivan back on the wing and other recent absences of the stature of Paul Newlove

and Bobbie Goulding fit again. "They are a very talented bunch of players," McRae said after his first three days in charge. "I'm not trying to build Rome in a day but just offering a bit of guidance when it's needed."

Castleford covered their pitch before the onset of the severe weather and are confident of being able to stage the match. They will, however, be without their England stand-off,

## Old Firm pair arrive in Lilliput

If dreams of players can take them into the realms of fantasy football before big games, the players and managers of Celtic and Whitehill Welfare may have been struggling to keep the nightmare demons at bay this week.

The two small non-league clubs have been propelled into football's fast lane as they prepare to take on the might of Rangers and Celtic in the third round of the Tennent's Scottish Cup. They await their fate with excitement and dread.

Home advantage has been wrenched from them by officials, who deemed their grounds unworthy of such occasions, and so Pittodrie and Easter Road have been hired.

Keith meet Rangers today, while Whitehill face Celtic tomorrow: the two smallest clubs in the competition facing the biggest. Not surprisingly, the bookmakers have installed Keith as 20,000-1 to lift the trophy.

Jim Hamilton, the Celtic manager, was looking on the bright side this week: "We'd have real nightmares if we looked too closely at the Rangers side and, to be honest, I haven't thought much about them at all yet."

"I'll wait until after lunch on Saturday before talking to the players, although I'm happy Paul Gascoigne is suspended. I would say we are as good as any team in the Third Division and several in the second. If everything was even we wouldn't stand a chance, but this is cup football and you have to hope for the best."

Like any manager in his position, Hamilton has under his charge an assortment of part-time players who will wish only to do their best and be able to walk out of the ground at the end with heads held high.

Their town will be deserted on the day, with 7,500 tickets sold in a place with a population of 5,000. This is the closest Scottish football gets to the small town giant-killing of the FA Cup yet, since the gulf between top and bottom, genuine cup shocks are isolated events.

"I've never played in front of more than 4,000 and many of the lads are the same," said Scott Taylor, the Celtic playmaker. "I hope we don't get stage fright on the day and so far everyone I've met has either asked for a ticket or told me to make sure

David McKinney on the most distant of outsiders in this weekend's Scottish Cup third round

we keep the score down to six. I've been daydreaming that in years to come I'll be able to say I scored against Andy Goram and Rangers."

Whitehill Welfare are heading for a sell-out against a resurgent Celtic, and they too can report record ticket sales. For a side which performs to 50 or 60 spectators on an average Saturday, 2,500 tickets sold on the first day of the public sale gives an indication of the level of interest in the area.

On such a momentous day even the manager, Dave Smith, is in danger of being wrapped up in the magic of the cup. He is toying with the idea of getting in on the act, of dusting down the boots and making a farewell bow to the game at the age of 38.

"It would be tempting, but I know I'll be nervous enough just looking over to their dug-out and knowing I'm pitting my wits against Tommy Burns. Celtic have players who have star status draped over them, so we'll be realistic about what we can do, in the knowledge that we'll have to withstand a lot of pressure."

"The days of Berwick Rangers upsetting the mighty Rangers are in the past. Celtic are a professional side with professional players."

"I have players who are determined to show they can play at a higher level, while I have ambitions myself to move on in management, and this is the platform we have been waiting for. In addition, the revenue from this one game will keep the club going well into the next century."

Smith can count on around £50,000 for this game but he is likely to be left counting the cash as a consolation at full time. His goalkeeper, Scott Canlie, is no doubt as to his task on the day.

"My worst nightmare is to let in double figures. I'm not saying I'll be happy to let in seven or eight goals but 10 or more would be a disaster. I'll do my



Eight-ball: Nicky Hammond, the Reading reserve goalkeeper, trains yesterday after recovering from injured Bulgarian international, Borislav Mikhailov, in today's FA Cup tie against Manchester United at Elm Park

best to keep the score down because I don't want to be remembered as the man who let in 10 or 15 goals against Celtic."

That kind of humiliation is the ultimate fear of any small club when jousting with the giants, and the players of both sides can learn a lesson from Alex Smith, the manager of Clyde, who took both Aberdeen and St Mirren to cup success.

In his days as manager of Stirling Albion, he watched his players go through the build-up to a big cup tie, only to find the occasion fell flat.

"The media had hyped up the game for the whole week and I was hoping for a good 90 minutes at the end of it, for the players to remember, but our big day lasted just 20 minutes by which time we were two goals down and the tie was lost."

## Hibernian confident of Cup progress

The leading Scottish clubs kick-off on the Cup trail today - weather permitting - and they could still be on the road to Hampden.

The national stadium in Glasgow will be a building site come the date of the final on Saturday 18 May. The Scottish Football Association, however, seems unlikely to move the traditional end-of-season showpiece away from Hampden, despite a cut in capacity.

Only an Old Firm meeting of Celtic and Rangers, and all the pressure for tickets that would create, might force a rethink. "At this stage it is still the intention of the International Committee and the Executive

Committee to carry on playing at Hampden if possible," Jim Farry, the SFA chief executive, said. The ground's old south stand is to be demolished within weeks, leaving the capacity in a three-sided stadium at 34,000.

"The Executive Committee, who decide venues for cup finals and semi-finals, will look at ties on a game-to-game basis," Farry added. "Decisions will be based on safety and the suitability for use of Hampden as work progresses. Clubs have carried on using grounds during redevelopment, so why not at the national stadium?"

The under-18s' heating at Easter Road should ensure Hibernian take on Kilmarnock in

the third round before Whitehill meet Celtic on the same Edinburgh turf tomorrow. Hibernian have not won the Cup for 94 years since beating Celtic 1-0 in 1902. Alex Miller's side took Celtic to a replay in the semi-finals last season but failed at the final hurdle.

They have won only once in the last eight games, but Miller said: "This is not a make-or-break game. The Cup is a one-off and, if we play our best football, we can go through."

Steven Tweed is injured while Darren Dods and Pat McGinlay are suspended, but Gordon Hunter and David Farrell could enter. Kilmarnock could be unchanged for the fifth game in a

row after remaining unbeaten in 1996 so far.

The Tynecastle transformation effected by Jim Jefferies has left Hearts in buoyant mood for their campaign, and last week's 3-0 win over Rangers should swell the attendance against Partick across Edinburgh. "It's a different game from Rangers but, if we score early, I'd expect us to win comfortably," Jefferies said.

Only six games today are expected to beat the weather. Keith v Rangers (at Pittodrie), Ross County v Forfar, Hibernian v Kilmarnock, Hearts v Partick, Hamilton v St Johnstone (at Firhill) and Caledonian Thistle v East Fife.

## Uefa launches attack on EU

**Football**

Uefa has launched its strongest attack yet on the European Union's attempt to sweep aside football's transfer and nationality regulations.

National federations continue to debate whether to accept the so-called Bosman ruling, or stand behind Europe's football officials. But the Uefa general secretary, Gerhard Aigner, accused the EU of intransigence and a lack of sensitivity and knowledge of the subject.

He warned that the EU court's insistence that the transfer system and nationality restrictions should be scrapped could destroy the structures of the game in the long term.

"Is it really necessary to take such aggressive action?" Aigner asked in the latest issue of the *Uefa Flash* newsletter. "Football did introduce requirements in contravention of EU law."

He said it was "legitimate for football's bodies to defend themselves against measures which they are convinced will have a generally negative influence on the development of the sport and are likely to destroy the structures of national football in the long term."

"The very aggressive comments made by representatives of the European Commission some time before the Bosman case showed their fundamentally negative attitude towards football's authorities," Aigner added.

## Westner overhauls Higgins

**Golf**

Ireland's David Higgins shot a second-round 72 yesterday to tie joint second, three shots behind, after being leap-frogged by Wayne Westner in a rain-disrupted day at the South African Masters in Port Edward.

South Africa's Westner took full advantage of favourable morning conditions at the San Lameer Country Club to add 68 to his opening 69 for a total of 137. But, with two and a half hours of play suspended during the afternoon because of lightning and rain, half the field were unable to finish their rounds before it got dark.

Westner did not enjoy a prof-

itable start. The twice South African Open champion dropped a shot at the first hole after driving into the right-hand rough, and another at the fourth. However, he then found his form with seven birdies over the next nine holes around the turn. "I'm happy with the way I'm playing at the moment," he said. "The course is tricky but it's not too tough."

Westner's closest threats among those who did not finish are Zimbabwe's Mark McNelly, a shot behind on six under par with four holes to play, and another South African, Warren Schutte, also at six under with six holes remaining.

## Badminton

The British pair Simon Archer and Julie Bradbury scored an unexpected win yesterday to reach the final of the mixed doubles competition at the South Korean Open in Seoul. Archer and Bradbury, seeded seventh, beat the second seeds, Kim Dong Moon and Gil Young Ah of the host nation, 15-13, 15-9. They are set to meet in the final the South Koreans Park Jong Bong and Ra Hyung Min, who prevented Archer and Bradbury from reaching the semi-finals by beating the sixth seeds, Nick Porting and Joanne Wright, 15-3, 15-5 in the other semi-final.

**South Korean Open (Seoul)** Mixed doubles semi-finals: Archer and Bradbury (GB) 15-13, 15-9; Kim Dong Moon and Gil Young Ah (KOR) 15-13, 15-5. Double semi-finals: Park Jong Bong and Ra Hyung Min (KOR) 15-13, 15-5; Nick Porting and Joanne Wright (GB) 15-3, 15-5.

## Basketball

**US Insurance World Masters (Las Vegas)** Semi-finals: J Pace (Wash) 61; D Thornton (Eng) 57; J J 3-1; R Conner (Sco) 61; H Huff (Sco) 7-3; 7-5.

## Boxing

Francis Botha's second urine sample from his International Boxing Federation heavyweight championship victory over Axel Schulz has tested positive for steroids. A hearing will be held within two weeks by the IBF championship committee to decide whether the South African will be stripped of the title he won by a split decision over Schulz on 9 December in Stuttgart.

## Cricket

The one-day match between Zimbabwe and Central Districts in Harare, New Zealand, yesterday was cancelled due to rain. Zimbabwe start their three-match limited-overs series against New Zealand in Auckland tomorrow.

## Football

Russell Carruth, the former England defender, has signed a new contract keeping him with Brighton for another month. The 36-year-old ex-Bristol City boss has been on a month-to-month contract since arriving at The Seagulls in September.

**Spanish Soccer Federation** agreed yesterday to cut their First Division from 22 to 18 teams by 1998 on the recommendation of Uefa. The First Division expanded unexpectedly last summer after the Spanish authorities demoted several teams to the Second Division for rules violations and then allowed them to return, joining two clubs who had been promoted. Lennart Johansson, the Uefa president, will ask his board to approve the plan to drop to 18 teams next season and then to 18. Angel Maria Villar, president of the Spanish Federation, said: "Uefa are not in favour of this long transition to reach 18 teams, but they understand the special situation our country is in."

**LAST NIGHT'S FOOTBALL POSTPONEMENTS:** Eastleigh Insurance League Third Division: Doncaster v Mansfield (rain); Peterborough v Mansfield (rain); Peterborough v Mansfield (rain); Peterborough v Mansfield (rain).

**WESTERN CONFERENCE CENTRAL DIVISION:** Chicago 25, 15, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**PACIFIC DIVISION:** Colorado 25, 14, 9, 18, 13, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

**ICE SKATING CHAMPIONSHIP (Sochi)** Women's short programme: S Bonny (FRI) 5.0; S 2.1; S 2.0; S 1.9; S 1.8; S 1.7; S 1.6; S 1.5; S 1.4; S 1.3; S 1.2; S 1.1; S 1.0; S 0.9; S 0.8; S 0.7; S 0.6; S 0.5; S 0.4; S 0.3; S 0.2; S 0.1; S 0.0; S -0.1; S -0.2; S -0.3; S -0.4; S -0.5; S -0.6; S -0.7; S -0.8; S -0.9; S -1.0; S -1.1; S -1.2; S -1.3; S -1.4; S -1.5; S -1.6; S -1.7; S -1.8; S -1.9; S -2.0; S -2.1; S -2.2; S -2.3; S -2.4; S -2.5; S -2.6; S -2.7; S -2.8; S -2.9; S -3.0; S -3.1; S -3.2; S -3.3; S -3.4; S -3.5; S -3.6; S -3.7; S -3.8; S -3.9; S -4.0; S -4.1; S -4.2; S -4.3; S -4.4; S -4.5; S -4.6; S -4.7; S -4.8; S -4.9; S -5.0; S -5.1; S -5.2; S -5.3; S -5.4; S -5.5; S -5.6; S -5.7; S -5.8; S -5.9; S -6.0; S -6.1; S -6.2; S -6.3; S -6.4; S -6.5; S -6.6; S -6.7; S -6.8; S -6.9; S -7.0; S -7.1; S -7.2; S -7.3; S -7.4; S -7.5; S -7.6; S -7.7; S -7.8; S -7.9; S -8.0; S -8.1; S -8.2; S -8.3; S -8.4; S -8.5; S -8.6; S -8.7; S -8.8; S -8.9; S -9.0; S -9.1; S -9.2; S -9.3; S -9.4; S -9.5; S -9.6; S -9.7; S -9.8; S -9.9; S -10.0; S -10.1; S -10.2; S -10.3; S -10.4; S -10.5; S -10.6; S -10.7; S -10.8; S -10.9; S -11.0; S -11.1; S -11.2; S -11.3; S -11.4; S -11.5; S -11.6; S -11.7; S -11.8; S -11.9; S -12.0; S -12.1; S -12.2; S -12.3; S -12.4; S -12.5; S -12.6; S -12.7; S -12.8; S -12.9; S -13.0; S -13.1; S -13.2; S -13.3; S -13.4; S -13.5; S -13.6; S -13.7; S -13.8; S -13.9; S -14.0; S -14.1; S -14.2; S -14.3; S -14.4; S -14.5; S -14.6; S -14.7; S -14.8; S -14.9; S -15.0; S -15.1; S -15.2; S -15.3; S -15.4; S -15.5; S -15.6; S -15.7; S -15.8; S -15.9; S -16.0; S -16.1; S -16.2; S -16.3; S -16.4; S -16.5; S -16.6; S -16.7; S -16.8; S -16.9; S -17.0; S -17.1; S -17.2; S -17.3; S -17.4; S -17.5; S -17.6; S -17.7; S -17.8; S -17.9; S -18.0; S -18.1; S -18.2; S -18.3; S -18.4; S -18.5; S -18.6; S -18.7; S -18.8; S -18.9; S -19.0; S -19.1; S -19.2; S -19.3; S -19.4; S -19.5; S -19.6; S -19.7; S -19.8; S -19.9; S -20.0; S -20.1; S -20.2; S -20.3; S -20.4; S -20.5; S -20.6; S -20.7; S -20.8; S -20.9; S -21.0; S -21.1; S -21.2; S -21.3; S -21.4; S -21.5; S -21.6; S -21.7; S -21.8; S -21.9; S -22.0; S -22.1; S -22.2; S -22.3; S -22.4; S -22.5; S -22.6; S -22.7; S -22.8; S -22.9; S -23.0; S -23.1; S -23.2; S -23.3; S -23.4; S -23.5; S -23.6; S -23.7; S -23.8; S -23.9; S -24.0; S -24.1; S -24.2; S -24.3; S -24.4; S -24.5; S -24.6; S -24.7; S -24.8; S -24.9; S -25.0; S -25.1; S -25.2; S -25.3; S -25.4; S -25.5; S -25.6; S -25.7; S -25.8; S -25.9; S -26.0; S -26.1; S -26.2; S -26.3; S -26.4; S -26.5; S -26.6; S -26.7; S -26.8; S -26.9; S -27.0; S -27.1; S -27.2; S -27.3; S -27.4; S -27.5; S -27.6; S -27.7; S -27.8; S -27.9; S -28.0; S -28.1; S -28.2; S -28.3; S -28.4; S -28.5; S -28.6; S -28.7; S -28.8; S -28.9; S -29.0; S -29.1; S -29.2; S -29.3; S -29.4; S -29.5; S -29.6; S -29.7; S -29.8; S -29.9; S -30.0; S -30.1; S -30.2; S -30.3; S -30.4; S -30.5; S -30.6; S -30.7; S -30.8; S -30.9; S -31.0; S -31.1; S -31.2; S -31.3; S -31.4; S -31.5; S -31.6; S -31.7; S -31.8; S -31.9; S -32.0; S -32.1; S -32.2; S -32.3; S -32.4; S -32.5; S -32.6; S -32.7; S -32.8; S -32.9; S -33.0; S -33.1; S -33.2; S -33.3; S -33.4; S -33.5; S -33.6; S -33.7; S -33.8; S -33.9; S -34.0; S -34.1; S -34.2; S -34.3; S -34.4; S -34.5; S -34.6; S -34.7; S -34.8; S -34.9; S -35.0; S -35.1; S -35.2; S -35.3; S -35.4; S -35.5; S -35.6; S -35.7; S -35.8; S -35.9; S -36.0; S -36.1; S -36.2; S -36.3; S -36.4; S -36.5; S -36.6; S -36.7; S -36.8; S -36.9; S -37.0; S -37.1; S -37.2; S -37.3; S -37.4; S -37.5; S -37.6; S -37.7; S -37.8; S -37.9; S -38.0; S -38.1; S -38.2; S -38.3; S -38.4; S -38.5; S -38.6; S -38.7; S -38.8; S -38.9; S -39.0; S -39.1; S -39.2; S -39.3; S -39.4; S -39.5; S -39.6; S -39.7; S -39.8; S -39.9; S -40.0; S -40.1; S -40.2; S -40.3; S -40.4; S -40.5; S -40.6; S -40.7; S -40.8; S -40.9; S -41.0; S -41.1; S -41.2; S -41.3; S -41.4; S -41.5; S -41.6; S -41.7; S -41.8; S -41.9; S -42.0; S -42.1; S -42.2; S -42.3; S -42.4; S -42.5; S -42.6; S -42.7; S -42.8; S -42.9; S -43.0; S -43.1; S -43.2; S -43.3; S -43.4; S -43.5; S -43.6; S -43.7; S -43.8; S -43.9; S -44.0; S -44.1; S -44.2; S -44.3; S -44.4; S -44.5; S -44.6; S -44.7; S -44.8; S -44.9; S -45.0; S -45.1; S -45.2; S -45.3; S -45.4; S -45.5; S -45.6; S -45.7; S -45.8; S -45.9; S -46.0; S -46.1; S -46.2; S -46.3; S -46.4; S -46.5; S -46.6; S -46.7; S -46.8; S -46.9; S -47.0; S -47.1; S -47.2; S -47.3; S -47.4; S -47.5; S -47.6; S -47.7; S -47.8; S -47.9; S -48.0; S -48.1; S -48.2; S -48.3; S -48.4; S -48.5; S -48.6; S -48.7; S -48.8; S -48.9; S -49.0; S -49.1; S -49.2; S -49.3; S -49.4; S -49.5; S -49.6; S -49.7; S -49.8; S -49.9; S -50.0; S -50.1; S -50.2; S -50.3; S -50.4; S -50.5; S -50.6; S -50.7; S -50.8; S -50.9; S -51.0; S -51.1; S -51.2; S -51.3; S -51.4; S -51.5; S -51.6; S -51.7; S -51.8; S -51.9; S -52.0; S -52.1; S -52.2; S -52.3; S -52.4; S -52.5; S -52.6; S -52.7; S -52.8; S -52.9; S -53.0; S -53.1; S -53.2; S -53.3; S -53.4; S -53.5; S -53.6; S -53.7; S -53.8; S -53.9; S -54.0; S -54.1; S -54.2; S -54.3; S -54.4; S -54.5; S -54.6; S -54.7; S -54.8; S -54.9; S -55.0; S -55.1; S -55.2; S -55.3; S -55.4; S -55.5; S -55.6; S -55.7; S -55.8; S -55.9; S -56.0; S -56.1; S -56.2; S -56.3; S -56.4; S -56.5; S -56.6; S -56.7; S -56.8; S -56.9; S -57.0; S -57.1; S -57.2; S -57.3; S -57.4; S -57.5; S -57.6; S -57.7; S -57.8; S -57.9; S -58.0; S -58.1; S -58.2; S -58.3; S -58.4; S -58.5; S -58.6; S -58.7; S -58.8; S -58.9; S -59.0; S -59.1; S -59.2; S -59.3; S -59.4; S -59.5; S -59.6; S -59.7; S -59.8; S -59.9; S -60.0; S -60.1; S -60.2; S -60.3; S -60.4; S -60.5; S -60.6; S -60.7; S -60.8; S -60.9; S -61.0; S -61.1; S -61.2; S -61.3; S -61.4; S -61.5; S -61.6; S -61.7; S -61.8; S -61.9; S -62.0; S -62.1; S -62.2; S -62.3; S -62.4; S -62.5; S -62.6; S -62.7; S -62.8; S -62.9; S -63.0; S -63.1; S -63.2; S -63.3; S -63.4; S -63.5; S -63.6; S -63.7; S -63.8; S -63.9; S -64.0; S -64.1; S -64.2; S -64.3; S -64.4; S -64.5; S -64.6; S -64.7; S -64.8; S -64.9; S -65.0; S -65.1; S -65.2; S -65.3; S -65.4; S -65.5; S -65.6; S -65.7; S -65.8; S -65.9; S -66.0; S -66.1; S -66.2; S -66.3; S -66.4; S -66.5; S -66.6; S -66.7; S -66.8; S -66.9; S -67.0; S -67.1; S -67.2; S -67.3; S -67.4; S -67.5; S -67.6; S -67.7; S -67.8; S -67.9; S -68.0; S -68.1; S -68.2; S -68.3; S -68.4; S -68.5; S -68.6; S -68.7; S -68.8; S -68.9; S -69.0; S -69.1; S -69.2; S -69.3; S -69.4; S -69.5; S -69.6; S -69.7; S -69.8; S -69.9; S -70.0; S -70.1; S -70.2; S -70.3; S -70.4; S -70.5; S -70.6; S -70.7; S -70.8; S -70.9; S -71.0; S -71.1; S -71.2; S -71.3; S -71.4; S -71.5; S -71.6; S -71.7; S -71.8; S -71.9; S -72.0; S -72.1; S -72.2; S -72.3; S -72.4; S -72.5; S -72.6; S -72.7; S -72.8; S -72.9; S -73.0; S -73.1

# Gay Meadow prepares to welcome Liverpool

PHIL SHAW



The lower orders had their day in the third round of the FA Cup, with Ipswich, Sheffield United and Charlton humbling the self-styled aristocrats of Blackburn, Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday. The fourth round tends to be a different matter: when the going gets tough, the toffs get going. The Toffes of Everton proved a case in point last year, rising from the depths of the Premiership to win at Wembley. No Evertonian would shed tears for Liverpool were they to succumb at Shrewsbury today, dead of all Fred Davies.

the Second Division side's manager. In a neat bit of reverse psychology, Davies has had a sign placed above the players' tunnel—similar to the one that has struck fear into visitors to Anfield down the decades—which declares: "This is Gay Meadow".

Shrewsbury, whose squad includes four Scousers, have lost only four of their last 27 games. They also possess a striker with inside knowledge of Liverpool's three-man defence. Steve Anthrobus was a colleague of Phil Babb and Neil Ruddock at Millwall before joining John Scales at Wimbledon. Having scored seven goals in seven years, Anthrobus is ripe for his 15 minutes of fame.

Reading have used six goalkeepers this season, yet none of the three eligible to turn out against Manchester United is fit. The Bulgarian, Borislav Mikhailov, faces a late test on a thigh strain, Simon Sheppard has a broken arm and Nicky Hammond, chicken-pox. The latter has volunteered to come out of quarantine and play, proof that Cup fever can still overcome lesser infections.

If Elm Park's keeper crisis is designed to lull United into over-confidence, the sight of a hideously bumpy playing surface should disabuse them of any such notions. Referring to the 20 tonnes of sand spread over it to assist with drainage, the Reading defender Andy Bernal

remarked, with no intentional irony: "Our pitch could be a great leveller".

Port Vale's chances of causing an upset at Everton might have been greater had Joe Royle's team not already suffered a scare against Stockport, although the Potteries club can point to some encouraging auguries.

When they last faced the holders, in 1954, Vale beat Blackpool, including Stanley Matthews, en route to the semi-final. The current side, despite being 19th in the First Division, have won eight and drawn two of the last 12 games.

In the kind of duel which encapsulates the competition's charm, Vale are likely to deploy

the 6ft 4in Gareth Griffiths, a £1,000 buy from Rhyl, against Duncan Ferguson, who cost £4m from Rangers. Ferguson plays on pending the verdict from a judicial review in Edinburgh into whether he must serve the remaining seven games of a 12-match ban from the Scottish FA.

The Cup quicksand has so far claimed four Premiership victims, a total that must at least double before this round is over. Nevertheless, ties between clubs from different levels remain the essence of the competition's appeal. In-form Aston Villa, who have not lifted the trophy in 39 years, are another team with an unenviable task, travelling tomorrow to

Sheffield United, bottom of the First but conquerors of Arsenal.

The ex-files could be a particularly strong factor at Bramall Lane, with United's manager Howard Kendall looking to one of Villa's great stalwarts, Gordon Cowans, to bridge the chasm in quality.

Tottenham, Southampton or West Ham feel entirely confident today. Spurs' visitors, Wolves, are warming to Mark McGhee's radically different playing style, and will be hoping that Ian Walker does not recover from illness in time to face Steve Bull and co. In that event, Chris Day, 20, would make his debut in goal.

Southampton are on a hiding to nothing against Crewe, who stand second in the Second Division and have several young talents who will not look out of place in the company of Matthew Le Tissier. One, Neil Lennon, is likely to move up to the top level, possibly with Queen's Park Rangers, as and when Crewe go out of the Cup.

West Ham receive Grimsby, sadly no longer accompanied by the shoal of inflatable haddock in the stands. But the Mariners do have a big fish in a small pond in the shape of Ivano Bonetti, late of Juventus, who will be anxious to uphold the honour of South Humberside and Italy on the grand stage.

## Asprilla leaves without signing

Football  
GUY HODGSON

Newcastle United's £6.7m purchase of Faustino Asprilla was in doubt last night when the Colombian striker flew back to Italy without putting his signature to a contract estimated to be worth £15,000 a week.

Asprilla, 26, whose Italian season has been disrupted with a knee injury, had been in Newcastle to complete the formalities of a move from Parma that would have taken the Premiership leaders' spending to £40m since Kevin Keegan became manager in 1992. Those included a medical which, perhaps significantly, was not mentioned as successfully completed when the club issued a press release.

Delivered by the chief executive Freddie Fletcher, it read: "Faustino Asprilla is now returning to Italy and we will be making an application for the appropriate work permit. The player was here to have his medical and to finalise other details, all of which has been done."

The lack of the usual after-

medical news conference was in keeping with the cloak-and-dagger atmosphere in which this whole episode has been undertaken. Asprilla flew in to Teesside Airport on Thursday to avoid those expecting him at Newcastle and he slipped away from St James' Park without facing journalists or supporters.

"I want to do my best for Kevin Keegan," he said in a statement. "Newcastle are a great club who can give me a chance to play in the European Champions' Cup. That is why I am so excited to be joining them."

Referring to the allegations about his past that have surfaced in some newspapers, he added: "I don't care about what is in the past, the slate is wiped clean."

Newcastle's chairman, Sir John Hall, also played down Asprilla's history which includes a shooting incident, an alleged argument with a bus driver resulting in a leg injury and several car crashes.

"I think at times we expect an awful lot of young people," he said. "Kevin rates him very highly and other people believe



Despite the show of togetherness with Newcastle's Terry McDermott, Faustino Asprilla yesterday returned to Italy

Photograph: Newsteam

he is one of the top three players in the world."

Another Newcastle target, David Batty, was yesterday thinking over his options, while insisting that he is not on strike and had not gone absent from

training. The unsettled Blackburn midfielder had a £3.5m move to Newcastle blocked by the Rovers owner, Jack Walker. In contrast, Steve Stone has settled his differences with Nottingham Forest and agreed an

improved three-and-a-half year contract.

Phil Neal has been appointed the manager of Cardiff City 11 months after leaving Coventry. Neal's former Liverpool team-mate,

Ronnie Whelan, has emerged as a front runner for the vacant Republic of Ireland manager's job after being given permission by Southern United to speak to the Football Association of Ireland. Whelan will

first have to oversee the sale of full-back Chris Powell to Derby for £750,000.

Wales begin their World Cup qualifying campaign away to San Marino on Sunday 2 June. Spurs' reprieve, page 26

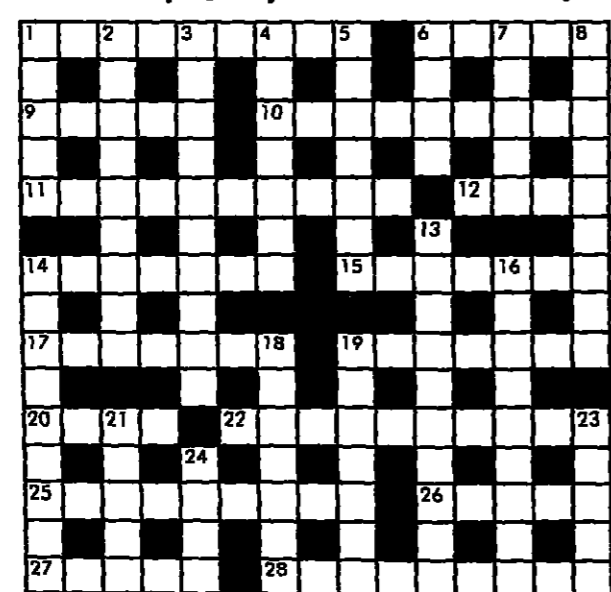
### THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 2894, Saturday 27 January

By Phil

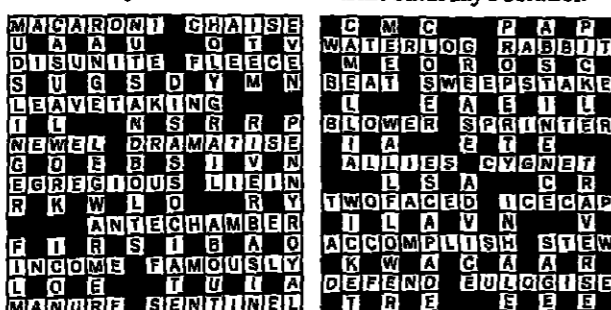
ACROSS

DOWN



Friday's solution

Last Saturday's solution



The first five correct solutions to this week's puzzle opened next Thursday receive hand-drawn copies of the excellent Larousse Dictionary of Literary Characters worth £25. Answers and winners' names will be published next Saturday. Send solutions to Saturday Crossword, P.O. Box 4018, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5BL. Please use the box number and postcode and give your own postcode. Last week's winners: C.W. Thomas, Bristol; P.B.N. Whitehead, London; E.L. Miss Emma Sturges, Walling-on-Trent; Gerald Cowham, Huddersfield; Stewart and Jane Jones, Northumberland.

## Bath and Wigan contest the clash of the codes

One hundred years of mutual antipathy will be laid to rest when Bath and Wigan play each other in a two-match series in May—the first in the North under rugby league rules and the second in the South, possibly at Twickenham itself, under union rules.

Such are the consequences of rugby union's new professionalism and the removal of the taint that union has sought to attach to league since the great split of 1895. The practical benefits of playing these matches may be obscure beyond one code being able to claim a spurious superiority over the other, but serious money will be involved when union's five-times English champions take on league's perennial British champions.

Now that the matches—probably on 8 and 25 May—have been confirmed, television can begin the serious bidding. Goodison Park and Maine Road, homes of Everton and Manchester City respectively, were yesterday touted as possible Northern venues. Failing Twickenham, Bath have

Steve Bale on the historic games which will bring together league and union

enquired about using Cardiff Arms Park.

"Of course it's a great commercial venture," John Quin, the Bath secretary, said last night. "But over and above that, here is the chance for the leading exponents of both codes to pit their wits against each other. At this stage I would have thought it was a one-off, or a two-off if you like, to celebrate the coming-together of the two codes."

Though agreement to stage the matches was confirmed by the clubs yesterday, the Rugby Football Union has yet to give formal blessing through its game-regulation committee. But Richard Mawditt, the Bath chairman, has told other club officers he has the verbal approval of Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary.

Wigan received the Rugby Football League's support a

while ago and already have won a Twickenham date: the Middlesex Sevens on 11 May.

The prospective date of the second match would necessitate postponement of Wigan's Super League fixture against Sheffield Eagles the following day. In fact the League has been lukewarm about the venture and when Bath approached the RFU with a view to using Twickenham they were initially told it would be unavailable due to reseedling.

But the prospect of taking the game to Wales appears to have wrought a change of mind. "When they heard that the Arms Park was being considered," Quin said wryly, "it seems they decided to reallocate their reseedling programme."

Ladbrokes, the bookmakers, reckon the chances of either side being beaten at their own game are remote. Wigan are 1-10 (if you bet £10 you stand to win only £1) to win under league rules, with Bath at 6-1. Bath are the 4-11 favourites to take the union contest, with Wigan at 2-1.

### In tomorrow's INDEPENDENT On Sunday



#### DIARY OF DESPAIR

"As I walked up the caged tunnel to a volley of abuse from the crowd in front of the dressing room, I knew that was it for the series. I was so devastated I felt I wanted to go back out, put the stumps up and take guard again."

Mark Ramprakash, disillusioned tourist

### Inter-Church Travel



### RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS WORLDWIDE

Over 38 different holidays visiting 23 countries

1996 BROCHURES NOW AVAILABLE  
Pilgrimages - Retreats  
Fellowship Hotel Stays  
Short Breaks - Cruises  
Coach Tours  
All led by members of the clergy

TAILOR-MADE HOLIDAYS FOR GROUPS  
Our specialist organisers can give advice and assistance in setting up and advertising your own groups holiday  
FREE PLACE OFFERS  
Freephone and freepost service

Complete the coupon or call now on

FREE 0800 300 444

Please quote 3DF41

Return to: Inter-Church Travel,  
FREEPOST, P.O. Box 58, Folkestone,  
Kent, CT20 1YB

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Rev

Address

Town

County

Postcode

Telephone No ( )

Please send your brochures (please tick) ☐

Please contact me about a group holiday

for persons to